

## 2012 President's Volunteer Service Award Recipients



**Ginger Armistead** of Olive Branch commits much of her spare time to services for the betterment of the community, serving especially, the Junior Auxiliary of DeSoto County. Ginger spends countless hours each week wearing many hats for the Junior Auxiliary, most of which goes unrecognized. She serves as the chair for one of our biggest service projects, Healthy Today Healthy Tomorrow. Ginger is at the forefront of Publication Relations for the chapter. She never tires of ideas that Junior Auxiliary can implement in order to better serve the children of Desoto County. Whenever there is a project, deadline, job, task or grunt work Ginger is the first to volunteer. She has a giving and loving spirit that fuels her volunteer passion.

**Joe Azar** of Batesville knows what it means to be involved in his community. He currently serves on the Executive Board for the Panola Partnership and the Executive Board for the Panola County Community Foundation. Joe also serves on the budget committee for the Mississippi Malt Beverage Association and on the school board for the North Delta Academy in Batesville. In 2011, Joe requested, received and coordinated the delivery of over 5,000 cases of water as relief to flood victims in Tunica and throughout northwest Mississippi with the help of Anheuser-Busch and Nestle Waters. Additionally, Joe is a committed member of the Rotary Club of Batesville and the Knights of Columbus.

**Vivian Berryhill** of Olive Branch is the president and founder of the National Coalition of Pastor's Spouses, a nonprofit, nonpartisan network of more than 2,500+ clergy spouses from varying denominations across the country. Vivian devotes countless hours, both domestically and internationally, in her quest to encourage pastor's spouses to use faith institutions as "health hubs" in the fight to reverse the effects of rehabilitating diseases. In 2007, she was selected as one of the premier partners for Walden Media's internationally acclaimed movie: *Amazing Grace*, and the worldwide movement *Amazing Change*, lending her voice and talent along with other notable world leaders to end modern day slavery.

**Peggy Bordelon** of Charleston is a Master Gardener, a landscaper, a designer, a builder, a seamstress, and a leader and she has her hands in every aspect of the Charleston community. She is an active and passionate member of the Charleston Arts and Revitalization Effort (CARE) and it shows in everything she does. Peggy has worked on the renovation of the Scissors' House on Hwy 32 East and has been instrumental in the revitalization and beautification of town square landscaping and the court house landscaping through planning, planting, and upkeep of the lawns and flower beds. She also spearheaded the committee to paint and improve the old, abandoned buildings of West Main Street. Peggy has also found a way to use her volunteering to improve patriotism in the town of Charleston by heading the committee to sell American flags and poles to each store and office in the town.

**Reginald Boyce** of Byhalia is a dedicated volunteer for the 4-H Lucky Charms Club and is never afraid to take on leadership roles in 4-H and in his community. He is a member of the 4-H Advisory Council and a proponent of the 4-H Afterschool Coalition with JcPenney. He has been a leader in planning the Safety Expos held by 4-H and has served as a liaison for the meetings between the 4-H youth and the young leaders groups from Nicaragua. Outside of 4-H, Reginald is a very active member and leader at his church, Bethel Presbyterian, and has worked with others in the area to implement a food program for the local senior citizens. He is also a dedicated volunteer at the Food Pantry and regularly commits his time to assisting senior citizens in his community.

**Erma Cathey-Oliver** of Southaven is committed to "making a difference for tomorrow" through the *Young Ladies Today* group. She labored tirelessly to mold *Young Ladies Today* into the strong and impressive group that it is today. She has a deep heart for inspiring, mentoring, and developing young ladies. The *Young Ladies Today* organization, through the leadership of Erma, has exposed its members to a world that, before this organization, they could only dream about. She has helped this organization grow from the ground up through her blood, sweat, and tears.

**Tonja and Jimmy Caldwell** of Batesville are a husband and wife professional accounting team that understands the power of volunteerism. They not only teach about the importance of volunteering but they practice it as well. Tonja and Jimmy's objectives are to empower communities; help nonprofit organizations stay in control of their mission; inspire people to participate and volunteer in nonprofit organizations; enhance the leadership of nonprofit organizations so that they will be more effective and impactful; and to enhance the performance of nonprofit and small business organizations. Tonja and Jimmy spread their message through a variety of nonprofit trainings and community programs on topics like small business volunteer training, youth leadership and development, and nonprofit volunteer training.

**Votie Holmes** of Tunica may work for Helena Chemical and has a wife and three children, but he is a dedicated volunteer with Tunica Academy. He does any and every task necessary to help the school grow and thrive. He has mowed the school grounds, worked to maintain the school football and baseball fields, rebuilt the press box, and coached the girls' softball team, all in the name of Blue Devil Pride. He currently serves on the School Board and has served as the School Board President for many years. Votie is a great example of school pride and he serves as a constant reminder to the students that they should take pride in their school. Those that know him say that the school has survived many years because of the love, dedication, and volunteers that help run the school like Votie Holmes.

**Walter Matlock** of Olive Branch is living proof that you are never too old to volunteer. At the age of 86, Walter joined Unity Hospice Care as a volunteer and has proved himself to be one of their most dedicated and compassionate volunteers over the last three years. He visits terminally ill patients and their caregivers each week, often more than once a week. He has a delightful sense of humor and an infectious smile that puts others at ease.

Walter has donated countless hours since joining Unity Hospice Care and those that work with him say it is a privilege to work with him and see the results of his compassionate giving. The gratitude from a weary caregiver or the delight from a patient who needs someone to share a lifetime of stories with is just a few of the rewards reaped by Walter with Unity Hospice Care.

**Stephanie McKinney** of Holly Springs has proven herself invaluable to the Preserver Marshall County & Holly Springs, Inc. organization (PMCHS) by utilizing her creative talent for appreciating what was needed in the areas of publicity, graphic design, and physical help with needed work in the field. In 2011 PMCHS began their annual fundraising event "The Wrecking Ball" and Stephanie was instrumental in making the event a huge success. It was thanks to her help with press releases, distribution lists, aiding in the creation and maintenance of a web and social media presence, etc. that PMCHS was able to reach such a wide and supportive audience of approximately 200 attendees from a geographically diverse area. She worked tirelessly on weekends to help clean the grounds and interior of Chalmers Institute as well as to setup and break down on the lead up and close out of The Wrecking Ball. She continues to support the work and educational outreach efforts while continuing to help with promotional activities for a spring educational program, "Behind the Big House Tour" being hosted in conjunction with the annual pilgrimage. This program will open up several of Holly Spring's Slave Dwellings and provide access and interpretation to these often overlooked sites.

**Jill Morris** of Nesbit started volunteering in high school with DeSoto Sunrise Homes and continued working with that group for many years. She received the Women Helping Others Award for her work with DeSoto Sunrise Homes. Jill has continued to volunteer in a variety of areas within the community including the Northwest Baptist Association as Acteens director and as missions volunteer with the same organization. Currently she serves on the Mississippi Tobacco Free Coalition of Tate and DeSoto Counties where she heads up the local version of the RAT Pack performance troupe. Her group has performed skits to teach young people about the dangers of tobacco use and secondhand smoke at area schools, local festivals, and a River Kings game. Jill also works as the team captain for the Stars in Motion philanthropic ventures: Relay for Life and March of Dimes and is an active member of the Community Health Council and the Regional Health Council.

**Kathy Morris** of Hernando is a full time volunteer who has worked with various organizations throughout DeSoto County. Her family and children are her number one priority so it is no wonder that she has served as a member of the Parent Teacher Organization with Desoto Central, a "Drama Mama" with the Hernando High Performing Arts Group, and is currently the president of the 2012 Hernando High School Senior Breakfast. Kathy also has a passion for her church family and for other churches in the area. Kathy also began a "secret pal" relationship between the senior adults of the church and the middle school aged members. While working with the middle school students in this program, Kathy noticed a need among the young women of the church which lead her to spearhead the creation of a Girls' Ministry that focuses on the fostering healthy, happy young women. She has also volunteered for international missions trips to Canada, Peru, and Nicaragua and for local missions including various World Changers Missions. When she is not working hard for her family or her church, Kathy volunteers time with the local Impact Missions, a non-profit organization that helps abused and neglected children. After the loss of a family friend's child, Kathy poured her heart and her time into helping raise money to establish the Noah's Gift Fund, an endowed fund at the Community Foundation of Northwest Mississippi that gives teenagers an opportunity to have the extraordinary experience of their choosing.

**Harvey Payne, Sr.** of Holly Springs is known for his work serving as Alderman but he also deserves recognition for his dedication to volunteerism and the community. He is a compassionate individual with a heart for his community, residents of Marshall County, and for preserving the history of his community. Recently Harvey has

helped with the restoration of the Ida B. Wells-Barnett Museum where he now volunteers his time as often as he can. He is also an active member of the Main Street Board and serves as a committee chair. Harvey also takes time out of his schedule to be an active member of the Community Foundation's *Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities* project.

**Jay Perkins** of Senatobia is no stranger to hard work or volunteerism. He has given his time to an organization close to his heart, the Baddour Center in Senatobia, where he volunteered countless hours with the Center's Education and Research Division. He has gone on to work as a Life Aide in the Recreation and Fitness Department. His contributions to the Baddour Center were previously recognized when he was awarded the Volunteer of the Year Award. Those that work with Jay say that he has an infectious spirit and a passion for his work. He has even been known to dress up as a cheerleader, complete with green hair, in support of the Baddour Center. The residents enjoy having him to visit with and they will tell you that he is a true gift to the Baddour Center.

**Bobbie Jean Ponders** of Batesville dedicated her life to making the town of Batesville a great place for families and visitors to the town. Bobbie passed away in March of 2012 but her impact on the town of Batesville will never be forgotten. Never one to sit and wait on something to happen, she was busy about Batesville every day. Because of her efforts on the Master Plan Committee, Batesville was awarded the Small Municipalities grant which secured funds for the Batesville Memorial Park completed in 2005. She worked as hard as any farmer in the field to produce a Farmer's Market in the downtown area. She did it all, from walking around the square to water flowers to gathering information for a building inventory. She sold tickets at SpringFest and tee shirts at Showoff on the Square; coordinated costume judging for Halloween's Scare on the Square and wore a Santa's elf costume herself for Holiday Open House. She attended nearly every Main Street Board meeting, answered the office phone when needed, supported Main Street at City Board meetings; and frequently attended Main Street training sessions plus Destination Downtown and a National Town Meeting. Her sights were set on Batesville's future. In her life, Bobbie laid the ground work for family movie nights, lighting the square, new sidewalks, better traffic flow, and finding new opportunities for more businesses in Batesville. Her kindness and love for the city of Batesville will always be remembered.

**Jessica Randle** of Horn Lake commits much of her time to services for the betterment of the community. Jesse has volunteered her time to the Garden of Grace OutReach Center serving as a Hub for the Mid America Food Ministry in Desoto County and the many programs offered as an outreach center. The library and grade schools can always count on her to read books to the children. She teaches children in Sunday school at her church. Jessica defines and exceeds the meaning of the word Volunteer. She is a member of the Southern Quilting Guild where she helps make quilts for those in need. She assists the American Legion and other organizations in planning and carrying out fundraising events. Jessica has assisted in the Horn Lake Chamber Coalition for Social Services, organizing projects and helping with all Horn Lake Chamber Activities. She has helped with the Relay for Cancer drives, along with volunteering time and effort for many others projects headed up by the Horn Lake Chamber of Commerce. She also volunteers and assists in meetings, games and crafting to help senior groups of his community.

**Charles F. Reid** of Clarksdale is a dedicated, long time Coahoma County resident who has put his heart and soul into improving his community. Charles currently serves as a volunteer member of the Board of Directors for Northwest Mississippi Regional Medical Center, Clarksdale/Coahoma County Airport, Coahoma Community College Foundation, Clarksdale /Coahoma County Industrial Foundation, and he is an active member of the Superintendent's Round Table of the Clarksdale Municipal School district. Recently he also led the charge with the help of the Coahoma County Board of Supervisors to restore and clean up a historic cemetery. On top of all of these activities, Charles also volunteers his time to read to elementary students in the school and he has served as

a mentor to high school and community college young men. He has worked untiringly in the concession stand during football and basketball seasons at Coahoma Community College to help raise money to purchase items for the athletic programs. His contributions to the community make him a true humanitarian and an asset to Coahoma County.

**Jane Roberson** of Charleston is an artist, an art teacher, a master gardener, an active member of the Methodist Church, and board member of Charleston Arts and Revitalization Effort (CARE)- just to name a few. As an artist and art teacher, she has worked with the after school art programs and the summer art camps, sometimes donating her time and talent. She was one of the four artists working under Cristen C. Barnard and with young art students to design and paint the 3 murals hanging outside the Charleston Arts Center. As a CARE Board Member she has worked tirelessly on all projects. She and Isabelle Hays co-chaired the cookbook as one of CARE's most successful fund raisers. This cookbook contains over 650 delicious recipes which they gathered, tested, typed and compiled. She allowed her son's original art work for the cookbook dividers and then donated said work to hang in the Charleston Art Center.

**Lee Otis Smith** of Coldwater is a very hard working individual who has many community ties. He works diligently with an organization he founded in 2010 to help improve the Coldwater Schools where he works hand in hand with Mr. Willie Brandon Jr., Coldwater Attendance Center Principal and other officials to improve the school conditions, student moral, and volunteer opportunity for the school students and parents. Lee chairs the J.B. Sandridge Scholarship Committee for the Area Northwest Church of Christ and he ensures that funds are available for graduating seniors who apply from Desoto, Panola and Tate counties. He does this by sponsoring various fundraisers during the year and even giving out of his pocket. Lee also works with the Annual American Diabetes Association Step-Out Walk to STOP Diabetes Campaign in Coldwater. Mr. Smith never tires in spreading the word about the importance of being health conscience and being educated on various diseases that can plague one's body. He gives of himself and doesn't ask for anything in return, at the same time living and caring for a spouse with Alzheimer's Disease.

**Lisa Sparks** of Lake Cormorant has a love for animals, particularly horses, and she uses that love for horses to teach home schooled students about horses and the care that they require. After the loss of her daughter, Eve, to cancer two and half years ago Lisa found that she needed an emotional outlet and a way to deal with the pain. Rescuing abused animals and helping teach home schooled students about horsemanship has allowed Lisa to channel her grief into positive, almost therapeutic ministry through her organization "Fellowship of the Hoof."

**Brenda Atkinson Wiggs** of Marks is known by most in her community as the "go to woman" if there is ever a need for volunteers or knowledge. It is clear from her volunteer commitments that Brenda has a passion for the youth of Quitman County. She tutors several children within the county and has taught Sunday school for young adults at Crowder Baptist Church for many years. Brenda also teaches a Discipleship training class at the church on Sunday evenings and opens up her home a few nights a week for bible study classes to expand on the previous weeks' sermon. When she is not volunteering with her church or the area youth, Brenda dedicates her time to the Women's Auxiliary where she helps with the local Christmas parades. She has also served as a chair on the committee for the 100 Year Centennial Celebration of the Courthouse located in Marks.

**Dewayne Williams** of Hernando spends his days working as the Director of the Hernando Parks and Recreation and he spends his spare time working with the West End Ministries group. He helped to launch the West End Ministries in 2011 to reach out to the West End community through tutoring, fellowship, bible studies, and more. With programs constantly growing and changing, West End offers weeknight bible studies for men and women, video "game nights", and a Monday evening tutoring and homework assistance ministry aimed at elementary and

high school students. Dewayne commits his time and his energy to reaching out to the youth in this area through his work with Parks and Recreation and through the ministry and inspiration provided by West End Ministries.

**Phyllis Williams** of Coldwater may be a retired certified public accountant who relocated to Mississippi from Indiana in 2007, but to those who know her in Coldwater she is simply a terrific volunteer with a passion for giving back. Phyllis currently serves as Board member and treasurer for the Independence Arts Conservatory and Conference Center (IACCC). She has been instrumental in helping direct the process for the IACCC to receive its 501-c-3 status and has assisted in bringing the conservatory facility back to order after it had been locked up for four years. Phyllis supports all of the programs, training sessions, and camps held by the IACCC and she has worked on fundraising for the Center. In addition she serves as the co-chair for the upcoming IACCC community project to paint murals on eight of the local buildings in Coldwater. Phyllis understands the mission and purpose of the Independence Arts Conservatory and its goal to inspire a richer quality of life through arts, education, and community development to the boys, girls, men, and women in the targeted four county area.

**Lin Workman** of Hernando has managed to merge the two things he enjoys: art and volunteerism. He has put his incredible artistic talent to work with the River Kings, the Ronald McDonald House Charities, Art for Autism sponsored by the DeSoto Arts Council, and the Community Foundation's annual Crystal Ball just to name a few. Lin spends countless hours working to create outstanding, memorable artwork for the charities and non-profits he works with and rarely asks for anything in return.