

## 2013 President's Volunteer Service Award Recipients



**Meg Bartlett** of Batesville is a very hard-working person with strong ties to the community. She is the Founder and President of the Como Historical Preservation Commission and until recently served as an active member of the Panola County Community Foundation. Bartlett's interest span beyond these two organizations and she can often be found volunteering with the Blues Trail Marker group, Christmas in Como, and reading in Como elementary schools. Her talents extend into the garden also which makes being President of the Como Home and Garden Club for the last three years a perfect fit. Outside of her involvement in Como, Bartlett is also a friend of the Community Foundation of Northwest Mississippi where she serves on the Grants Committee and was selected as Woman of the Year in 2010. Thank you, Meg Bartlett, for your commitment to northwest Mississippi.

**Lisa Biglane** commits much of her spare time to services for the betterment of the community, serving especially, the Junior Auxiliary of DeSoto County and the National Association of Junior Auxiliaries. Lisa spends countless hours each week wearing many hats for the Junior Auxiliary both on the local and national level with many of those jobs falling under her role as President of the National Association of Junior Auxiliaries. When she is not wearing her Junior Auxiliary hat, Lisa can be found teaching Sunday school at Hernando United Methodist Church, volunteering to chaperone her children's class field trips, or serving in the Hernando Young Women's Club. She is also committed to teaching others the importance of community involvement and leadership and she accomplishes this through her work with Leadership DeSoto. Thank you, Lisa Biglane, for your dedication to your community.

**Gaven Brantley and Dwight Reed** of Olive Branch are more than just dedicated FedEx Ground employees, they are dedicated volunteers committed to improving their community. This duo is featured together because while they are only a team of two their contributions are on a much grander scale. Gaven and Dwight have been actively involved with Volunteer Northwest Mississippi and the MidSouth Food Bank through the monthly mobile food

distributions over the last year. They weren't satisfied with just showing up and volunteering so they took it to the next level and turned a satisfactory distribution into a well-oiled machine. From site strategy and logistics to traffic control, Dwight and Gaven have given countless hours to making the process run smoother for recipients and volunteers. This duo has gladly accepted a stepped up role in regards to ensuring each monthly event is efficiently set-up and they have taken ownership to ensuring valuable resources are warehoused and available for these events. Thank you, Dwight and Gaven, for your commitment to DeSoto County.

**Genevieve Busby** of Holly Springs is a cherished volunteer for Preserve Marshall County and Holly Springs, Inc. and there can be no question as to why. She was instrumental in planning the Wrecking Ball II event by not only providing countless man hours, tools, a work truck, but also an eagerness to serve and support the cause. Busby has also served as a key player in the Big House program and it has been said that the event couldn't have happened without her help. This volunteer is clearly devoted to the preservation of Holly Springs and Marshall County and it is made clear through her constant work to improve upon the old and restore beauty to the town. Thank you, Genevieve Busby, for being an outstanding volunteer.

**Jerry Cobb** of Coldwater is a true hero and a spectacular volunteer. He is a volunteer fire chief in the town of Coldwater and a respected member of the community. He volunteers his time to ensure the safety and well-being of the citizens of his community and he goes out of his way to interact with everyone he meets. Jerry also volunteers his time with the elderly in his community and is a frequent guest at local schools teaching children the importance of fire safety. Thank you, Jerry Cobb, for your commitment to saving lives.

**Emily Cooper** of Clarksdale knows what it means to be committed to an organization. After retiring, Emily dove right into supporting the Griot Youth Program in Clarksdale and is now one of two volunteer coordinators for the program that provides an outlet to the youth of Clarksdale with an afterschool arts program. While she is a volunteer she gives time like a paid employee and is considered priceless by her co-workers. Some of her tasks include organizing volunteer times, giving reminders to all and recruiting new tutors, art teachers, and people to donate. Emily comes to weekly staff meetings, spends hours weekly investing in relationships with kids being their friend and mentor. She is involved in decision making, problem solving, and development of the Griot Youth Program. Emily is a constant networker for the program; letting people in the community know what Griot is doing and how they can help. She is always available for weekend events, field trips and special outings. Thank you, Emily Cooper, for your commitment to Griot Youth Program.

**Kim Daly** of Hernando has never met a stranger and she has a passion for helping people and it shows through her everyday life. Last year Kim quit her job to focus on helping others and has since started Love Works 25:40, a nonprofit ministry dedicated to helping the low-income in this area. From coordinating an area-wide Thanksgiving meal in the West End in Hernando, serving on the DeSoto County Literacy Council, working the monthly mobile food distributions, to leading a weekly bible study in the Avondale Apartment complex, it is clear that Kim is committed to helping others. Thank you, Kim Daly, for your willingness to serve others.

**Betty Jo Dulaney** of Tunica is committed to literacy and she has devoted more than twenty years to improving education for individuals and families every day in Tunica County. Betty Jo has helped people learn to read or improve their reading skills through numerous programs at the Tunica Literary Council. The Council's programs include literacy classes, pre-GED and GED skills classes, family literacy workshops, Mother Read/Father Read programs and tutoring at the recreation center for fire and disaster safety. While instrumental to all of these programs, Betty Jo has also developed a reading program for inmates in Tunica County and

was the driving force behind the “Dress for Success” program, a program designed to help women choose proper attire for job interviews. Thank you, Betty Jo Dulaney, for your dedication to Tunica.

**Pat Elardo** of Olive Branch is a true friend of the Southaven Library. She has been the vice-president of the Friends of Southaven Library and she faithfully works every Tuesday in the Friends bookstore. This involves lots of sorting of donations, moving them to storage and making inviting displays for the sale tables. She has trained over 50 other volunteers to serve in the bookstore and She encourages our teen volunteers to help out with the book sales as well. Pat is always looking for ways to help and shows up at many of the library events to represent the Friends. Pat also spends her time and money purchasing floral arrangements and decorations for the library and bookstore She buys flower arrangements to decorate the library and bookstore. Thank you, Pat Elardo, for being such a great friend to the community.

**Helen Graves** of Southaven is a long-time supporter of the House of Grace and a valued volunteer. Four days a week Helen can be found at the House of Grace thrift store, cheerfully giving her time and her manpower to make sure the thrift store is fully stocked. She assists with intake, sorting, hanging, cleaning, and stocking donations to the thrift store. If intake is slow Helen is the first to volunteer to go help in other aspects from the office to the store front in general. Helen is known for her kind heart and her passion to give back to her community through the House of Grace and her other community involvement. Thank you, Helen Graves, for being an example to us all!

**George Gwin** of Holly Springs is another volunteer that Preserve Marshall County and Holly Springs, Inc. could not live without. George currently serves as a member of the PMCHS’ board and he can always be counted on to show up and do the work of not one man but many. He is known for his willingness to work hard and get his hands dirty all in the name of preserving Marshall County. George is also a valuable member of the team because of his ability to corral financial support and donation items. Thank you, George Gwin, for your commitment to volunteerism.

**Landry Hearn** of Holly Springs knows what it means to give something your all and the nonprofits and organizations she supports know the value of her commitment. The list of her community involvement goes on for pages, but it includes the American Cancer Society Marshall County Relay for Life, Habitat for Humanity, the Marshall County Holly Springs Rust Club, the Garden Café, monthly food distributions, local food pantries, and the community summer camp. Landry holds a leadership position in all of these organizations and has done so for many years. She has been instrumental in making the Relay for Life a huge success in Marshall County and is responsible in large part for its successful fundraising and team-building history. Thank you, Landry Hearn, for representing so many great organizations in your community.

**Carolyn Johnson** of Charleston is the definition of a giving spirit. She is a faithful member of New Town M. B. Church. She has served as President of Hospitality Committee; Corresponding Secretary of the Church; Secretary of Senior Choir; and a member of the Decorating Committee. Carolyn is a Lifetime Member of CARE, Charleston Arts and Revitalization Effort, Inc., serving as President and Board member and committing countless hours to bringing arts to the residents of Charleston and revitalizing the community. She is also a member of the Charleston Day Club and she has helped plan and organize the Dr. Martin Luther King Parade and Program. Carolyn is a very active member of the American Cancer Society Board. Thank you, Carolyn Johnson, for your dedication to Charleston.

**Leon Martin** of Horn Lake is the go-to guy in this area for all things volunteer. He is a crucial player with “Keep Horn Lake Beautiful” and is known for his one-man pick-up parties along several Horn Lake roads. When he is not coordinating trash pick-ups or picking it up by himself, Leon can be found at Heartland Hands Food Pantry in Southaven. He is always there to lend a helping hand, listen to a client, unload a delivery, or clean out a pantry—anything to help out. On top of those two commitments, Leon can be found mowing yards, collecting recycling, clearing weeds and debris from drainage ditches, assisting with cleaning storm drains, and various other tasks to keep his community clean. He is also a dedicated member of the Friends of the Horn Lake Library group and often helps with the Family Cultural Exchange events and fundraisers for the library. Thank you, Leon Martin, for your commitment to keeping your community beautiful.

**Sassy Mauldin** of Cascilla has combined two things she loves to create a very busy volunteer schedule for herself. Her current role as president of the Charleston’s Magnolia Garden Club led her to the Charleston Arts and Revitalization Effort and her newfound passion for community gardens. Since moving to Charleston, Sassy has been instrumental in several community projects including securing grant funding for the CARE community garden, community-wide tree planting, Scissor’s 5K Run/Walk, memorial fence fundraising, and much more. She is also a proud and dedicated member of the Regional Health Council. Thank you, Sassy Mauldin, for allowing your passions to guide your volunteer work.

**Pauline McCabe** of Hernando is never afraid to step up a fill a need with the local First Regional Libraries. For the last five years, Pauline has helped process materials for homework assignments, starting a business, and even entertainment for the First Regional Library. She has taken on a variety of tasks, helping out where she is needed faithfully giving of her time. First Regional Library covers five counties with thirteen branches in Northeast Mississippi. Pauline is a dedicated library volunteer and a friendly face for regular library patrons. She is always happy to do any task that is asked of her. Thank you, Pauline McCabe, for being a friend to the libraries.

**Eloise McClinton** may live in DeSoto County but she volunteers her time in Holly Springs. She works as a volunteer with adults, teaching them how to become financially stable, assisting them in learning to budget, and even to save for a rainy day in these challenging economic times. She teaches them the importance of generational saving. These activities include providing educational information, conducting seminars, and teaching family members to work jointly in selecting the best quality at the lowest cost. Eloise is also a dedicated member and volunteer at her church, Brown Baptist, where she is a happy greeter and member of many committees including feeding the homeless, serving with the married couples’ ministry, and serving on the parking lot transportation ministry. In addition, Mrs. McClinton is a volunteer member of the Main Street Project in Holly Springs, a Lifetime Member and board of directors’ member of the Regional IV Head Start Association, Volunteer Board Member of the Mid-State Opportunity (an assistance program for the Elderly), a Member of the Children’s Committee-Brown Baptist Church, and an associate of the Mississippi KIDS COUNT campaign.

**Ricky McIntyre** of Olive Branch is a face that people are very used to seeing in our community. From volunteering with the Crystal Ball, representing the local chambers, reading to children for the Superheroes Read program, and volunteering with the monthly mobile food distributions, Ricky has a hand in everything going on in this community. Recently Ricky served as co-chair for the Taste of DeSoto event and is well-known for his with the MudBug Bash and the House of Grace. He can always be found with a smile on his face and a

willingness to serve. Thank you, Ricky McIntyre, for your limitless commitment to volunteering and community giving.

**Diana O'Rourke** of Olive Branch is committed to feeding the need in her community. Currently she serves as the Director of the Olive Branch Food Ministry and gives above and beyond what is expected of her each day to ensure that the pantry runs smoothly for its clients. She works hard to make sure that her church is actively involved at the pantry also by coordinating volunteers from church to work the pantry on assigned serving days. Diana is also an active member of the Queen of Peach Church with the Women's Club and she has worked with coordinating the Christmas Angel Tree and the Dress a Child for Back to School program with Catholic Social Services. Thank you, Diana O'Rourke, for working hard to give back to your community.

**Victoria Penny** of Hernando is often thought of as the go-to girl for community events. From Excel by 5, an organization committed to improving the lives of children in our community, to Ride your Bike to Work day- Victoria has a hand in it all. She is involved with the Hernando Community Garden and has given her time to help plan the Water Tower 10K in Hernando for the last few years. Victoria is committed to making her community a healthier, happier place to live and she works with various organizations and events to make this happen. Thank you, Victoria Penny, for working towards a better tomorrow.

**Jeffrey Lin Riley** of Sledge, better known by friends as "Coach Riley", has dedicated his time to youth development through organized sports for young men and women in Quitman County. Riley moved to the area and saw a need for organized, structured programs for young people who had too much idle time and not enough parental guidance. With his own force of will and determination, Coach Riley started a football program for boys and a cheerleading program for girls. He solicited donations and was able to purchase equipment, uniforms, and a used school bus for transportation. His organization, Marks Youth Outreach, is now in its seventh year of existence and serves about one hundred young people. Coach Riley created Marks Youth Outreach to provide young people with structured programs and opportunities to learn and grow through team sports. Thank you, Coach Riley, for your dedication to Sledge and Quitman County.

**Tommie Rodgers** of Hernando is a Master Gardener, a teacher, a school photographer, a 4-H Leader, and Cub master for the Boy Scouts of America. While the list is impressive, the work she does and the lives she touches are even more impressive. As a master gardener Tommie has put in countless volunteer hours helping with their annual award winning week-long Plant Camp for 30 children from all over the county. She has also held several seminars teaching the community how to grow mushrooms, composting and other gardening related topics; not to mention time spent at the Master Gardener's booth at Hernando's Farmers Market. As a 4-H volunteer she is a shooting sports trainer, lead volunteer for robotics club, master planner for plant camp and has been an individual help for clothing selection contest for one of the children. On top of all of this and her work with the Cub Scouts, Tommie is a dedicated EMT volunteer first responder and is certified Storm Watcher and Ham radio operator. Thank you, Tommie Rodgers, for commitment to your community.

**Andrew Sweatt**, a junior at Hernando High School, is a shining example of a young volunteer. Currently he is a member of the Hernando Mayor's Youth Leadership Council and is an active volunteer with Volunteer Northwest Mississippi. Andrew gives his time to the monthly mobile food distributions, Wesley Meadows Retirement Community, and community 5K events. No

matter the volunteer opportunity, Andrew is happily willing to give his time and recruit other young people to help the community. When he is not volunteering his time he spends his time serving as the National Honor Society president teaching other students how to be a leader and how to get involved in their community. Thank you, Andrew Sweatt, for your dedication to Hernando.

The mission of the **Senatobia Parks and Recreation Committee** (SPARC) is to increase the quality of life for every citizen in Senatobia and the surrounding communities. Although the group had a very specific goal of building a destination park and playground for the children of Senatobia, the road that led to that park had many additional stops along the way. Since 2008, SPARC has: Written and received 5 grants totaling more than \$50,000 for the City of Senatobia, 3 of which were Community Foundation of Northwest Mississippi grants; implemented an annual Play Day beginning in 2011; received the national designation, Playful City, USA for the City of Senatobia since 2011; designed and managed the construction of Sycamore Park, raising approximately \$170,000 and organizing roughly 600 hours of community volunteer service! Currently SPARC has a renovation project underway that focuses on the safety issues of one of the city's oldest parks, Norfleet Park. With a new fence already installed, they plan to replace and relocate the playground equipment as well. This project will be completed this summer. The members of SPARC are: Pam Buck, Charlie Case, Carol Cleveland, Penny Hawks Frazier, Stephanie Gough, Elizabeth Kairit, and Lana Nail.