

## NATIONAL VOLUNTEER MONTH 2021

MAKING AN EXTRAORDINARY  
**DIFFERENCE**  
IN AN EXTRAORDINARY YEAR



National Church Residences

### 2021 INDIVIDUAL WINNERS



#### **Volunteers of the Year**

**Joretta Thompson** | Twin Oaks Plaza, Oak Hill, WV

Joretta Thompson has been living and volunteering at Twin Oaks Plaza for 18 years, assisting the frailest residents, delivering meals and working to bring supplies to the community from local food banks. In the words of her nominator, Joretta is “the type of person who will put others before herself...She truly does what she does out of a spirit of love, wanting nothing at all in return. She is the epitome of a generous heart.”



**Heather Keener**, *Benefits Enrollment Center Volunteer/Intern* | Central Office, Columbus, OH

Heather Keener began her connection with National Church Residences as a student social work intern in fall 2020 and quickly showed her commitment for the work that we do. In the words of one of her nominators, Heather “showed grace and diligence in perfecting each task to best serve the clients, our company, and the community...Heather has also shown this isn't just a school assignment to volunteer, but a true way of life and passion.” She also volunteers at Poindexter Village “with a

smile and contagious energy.”

#### **Extraordinary Volunteer in an Extraordinary Year**



**Dale Schuler**, *Chaplain* | Stafford Village, Worthington, OH

Serving as a volunteer chaplain at Stafford Village since 2017, Dale Schuler exemplifies exceptional volunteer good works, especially during this time of COVID-19 and the challenges of isolation created for residents and staff at Stafford Village. In the words of his nominator, “He wanted to ensure our residents felt cared for and thought of...He continued to stay in touch over the phone or in person to assure emotional, spiritual and physical needs were met. He assisted with assuring residents had working phones, operating televisions with cable for their viewing pleasure and even prepped a home cooked chicken dinner for all the residents of Stafford Village which he delivered directly to their doors with freshly picked flower bouquets. Dale is a selfless man who focused only on how he could create a meaningful impact in the lives of the residents at Stafford Village during the pandemic.”



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### 2021 NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION WINNER



#### ***Seeds of Caring***

Seeds of Caring is a Central Ohio non-profit providing families and their children ages 2 to 12 with meaningful opportunities to engage in service, social action and community building. Prior to the pandemic, Seeds of Caring was responsible for setting up a carnival for our adult day participants at our Centers for Senior Health North Center. Seeds of Caring Founder and Executive Director, Brandy Jemczura, reached out to National Church Residences early in the pandemic about engaging with our residents by sending notes, cards and drawings. Initially, Seeds of Caring provided communications to three local communities. Later, handmade door hangers were provided to one of our assisted living communities. Last fall, the organization launched their Holiday Cheer program, providing holiday notes and cards to more than 30 of our communities all over Ohio. More than 1,890 of our residents have been touched by the kindness of Seeds of Caring. We are grateful to Seeds of Caring for making our seniors feel remembered and loved during a difficult and isolating year.

### NOMINEES

We offer our thanks and recognition to these other deserving Volunteer of the Year nominees:

*Rachel Alderman*

Stoneridge Court, Dublin, OH

*Pauline Bowen*

Betmar Village, Atlanta, GA

*Sally Elleman*

Inniswood Village, Westerville, OH

*Darlene Elliott*

Hospice, Southern Ohio Region

*Karrie Jackson*

Valley Bridge, Toledo, OH

*Mena Jirjees*

Madison-Solberg Campus, Madison Heights, MI

*Linda Jones*

Rockwood Village Apartments, Rockwood, TN

*Mary Lang*

Central OH Hospice, Columbus, OH

*Jeanie Lyon*

Hopeton Terrace, Chillicothe, OH

*Joseph Malizia*

Derry Station, Derry, PA

*Therone Martin*

Telfair Arms, Savannah, GA

*Robert Menchaca*

Frio Crossing, San Antonio, TX

*Jim Rhodes*

Commons at Buckingham, Columbus, OH

*Barbara Roth*

Battery Park Apartments, Asheville, NC

*Glen Smith*

Hospice, Southern Ohio Region

*Texas Lutheran University Students*

Eden Cross, Seguin, TX; Eden Place, Seguin, TX  
and Balcones Haus, New Braunfels, TX