



## Serve Virginia Recognizes Volunteers Statewide in Inaugural Honor Roll Celebration

**Richmond, Virginia (May 31, 2023)** – The [Serve Virginia Honor Roll](#), released May, 31, 2023, celebrates the valuable contributions of more than 2.2 million volunteers across the Commonwealth. In recognition of their service, totaling more than 231 million hours annually, the Serve Virginia Honor Roll spotlights above and beyond volunteers that serve their communities in a variety of ways, promoting quality of life and creating a lasting impact for others. More than 400 volunteers and organizations will be honored in this year’s inaugural honor roll, representing volunteer efforts and community involvement aligned with the services of the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS), including educating and mentoring youth, coordinating food drives, and leading projects to support refugee and immigrant resettlement.

[Serve Virginia](#) is a new campaign created as a more intentional partnership between the Virginia Service Commission, which operates within VDSS’ Office on Volunteerism and Community Services, and the Virginia Service Foundation, an independent 501(c)3 organization. Serve Virginia exists to inspire individuals and organizations to engage in volunteerism, connect groups with the tools they need to make a difference, and celebrate the tremendous impact of volunteers throughout the Commonwealth.

“As the lead agency for volunteerism and service for the Commonwealth, it is our sincerest honor to recognize the volunteers who support our partners and help our resources go further in Virginia’s communities,” said Fran Inge, director of the Division of Community & Volunteer Services for VDSS. “The more than 400 volunteers and organizations recognized this year represent the critical safety net that exists thanks to communities coming together to pool resources and make lasting change.”

“Volunteer recognition is an opportunity to say ‘thank you’ to community members who step up to serve others and inspire us all to join them in making a difference,” said Kathy Spangler, director of the VDSS Office on Volunteerism and Community Service and director of Serve Virginia. “By showcasing the stories of dedicated volunteers, we can provide examples for other Virginians to follow and motivate even more Virginians to become involved in addressing the needs of their communities.”

“It is important to recognize and thank those who have donated their time, talents, and energy to serve others. They inspire us to make a difference in our communities and the world,” said Marion Brunken, executive director of Volunteer Alexandria, a partner volunteer organization connecting Serve Virginia to the local community.

Volunteers and community members will also be recognized later this year through the Governor’s Awards on Volunteerism and Community Service. The nomination period is open now and available online through the [Serve Virginia webpage](#). The Governor’s Awards highlight the outstanding contributions of individuals, groups and organizations involved in community service, and recognizes the lasting impact made through their commitment to serving within local communities.

Join Serve Virginia in celebrating volunteerism by following them on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#). To personally recognize volunteers making a difference in your community, share pictures and stories on Twitter using #AmeriCorpsWeek. Learn more about Serve Virginia at [ServeVirginia.org](#).

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### **About the Virginia Department of Social Services**

The Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS), one of the Commonwealth's largest government agencies, is comprised of approximately 2,000 state staff who proudly serve alongside more than 10,000 employees of 120 local departments of social services and community action agencies to deliver critical social services to Virginia's most vulnerable citizens. VDSS is committed to ensuring Virginians have access to the high-quality human services and resources needed to enhance their individual and collective well-being, and shape strong futures for themselves, their families and communities. The agency provides a wide range of services and resources in the areas of food and energy assistance, foster care and adoption, child support, and abuse and neglect prevention, among others. For more information, visit [dss.virginia.gov](http://dss.virginia.gov).

**Serve Virginia** supports national service and community volunteerism across the Commonwealth. In addition to overseeing the annual grant competition that awards funding to AmeriCorps State and other national service programs, Serve Virginia actively works to support volunteerism through policy and program priorities, training and assistance, and recognizing individuals and organizations from all sectors for their contributions within their communities. Serve Virginia is supported by the Virginia Service Foundation and is guided by the Governor's Advisory Board on Service and Volunteerism. For more about the work of Serve Virginia, please visit <http://servevirginia.org>.