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SHINING Stars

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*Recognizing community members 65 or better
who have devoted their time, talents, energy,
& resources to our communities.*

**An awards luncheon honoring
the recipients will be held
Tuesday, June 19, 2018 at 12:00pm
at The Great Escape Lodge.**

Advance Reservations required.
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We are so proud to introduce the 2018 Post-Star's Shining Stars honorees. These men and women are contributing so much of their time, energy and passion to enhance the lives of our neighbors and, friends. Please take some time and discover the many ways that these honorees have chosen to make an impact. You will quickly understand why each person was chosen as a Shining Star.

We could not do this event without the wonderful partnership with The Conkling Center. Thank you to all of the folks who took the time to nominate an outstanding Shining Star candidate. The many nominations that we receive really highlight the commitment that seniors have to helping in their communities.

I would like to thank Barbara Sweet and Lt. Steven Stockdale for their help in the selection process.

We will celebrate the 2018 Shining Star honorees at the Great Escape Lodge on Tuesday, June 19th.

Robert P. Forcey

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John Bartlett

of Ticonderoga

Information provided by:
Thomas Schaffer
and Joyce Cooper

Described as: Compassionate, persevering, committed, advocate and organized

John and his wife moved back to Ticonderoga 13 years ago when he took an early retirement.

"It was only natural for me to want to give back to the community where I grew up. Besides, at the ripe old age of 53, I needed to keep myself busy so that I could stay out of trouble," John said.

He has served as deputy town supervisor and is active with the Ticonderoga Montcalm Street Partnership, where he is the Promotions Committee chairman. He is the president of the PRIDE

of Ticonderoga, a non-profit organization that "connect(s) and enhance(s) community through housing restoration, downtown revitalization, historic preservation and community development programs." His grant research efforts have led to improvements in the historic downtown and more promotional events.

John is also involved with the Ticonderoga Kiwanis Club, where he has served as president and was the originator behind the Backpack Project to make sure needy children have access to meals when school isn't in session. The program has gone from helping 30 to 275 students in five

years and has grown beyond Ticonderoga to include the Crown Point, St. Mary's Putnam, Schron Lake, Moriah and Peru communities. Currently, 8500 backpacks are filled annually, which translates to 51,000 meals.

"Thanks to John's work in these organizations and his attention to detail.....our town (is) a better place for all to live," said nominators Thomas Schaffer and Joyce Cooper.

On receiving a Shining Star Award, John said it is a "truly humbling experience."

"I have been fortunate to meet and get to know some of the most caring and giving people I have ever known," he said.



Dr. Kathleen Braico

of Glens Falls

Information provided by:
Stacey Fusco

Described as: Caring, giving, intelligent, inspirational and passionate

Kathleen, with her husband, founded Adirondack Pediatrics 40 years ago and has been involved in community service ever since.

She began volunteering with the Glens Falls Medical Mission because she felt the experience would be "exciting and interesting" and now visits twice a year to provide needed medical treatment.

For more than 25 years, Kathleen has been the medical director of Double H Hole in the

Woods Ranch but also trains staff, cleans the facilities and make sure everything is in place for the following season for those children with life-threatening illnesses.

"I had no idea what I was getting myself into, but it is one of the best things I ever volunteered for!" she said.

As a founding member of Amorak Youth, Kathleen saw the need for fun and exciting activities for teens that would promote leadership and positive decision-making skills. Through grants and fundraising, she has helped facilitate Red Cross CPR training, provide free books, establish anti-bullying programs and Read to a Senior.

At the request of the Rotary Club, she has traveled to Bangladesh to teach special courses with a labor and delivery nurse that focus on care for infants and mothers. She will return in October to teach a few new courses.

Kathleen is a member of the Saga City board and active with Gift Back, which supports 10 non-profit agencies.

"She inspires people by nature of her knowledge, personality and accomplishments. She is engaging and exciting when she talks about her many exploits and you will be hard pressed not to want to join her and be part of it all," said Kathleen's nominator, Stacey Fusco.



**Craig
Bramley**
of Hudson Falls, NY

Information provided by:
Frank Munoff

Described as: Humble, caring, sincere, dedicated and ambitious

Craig learned volunteerism from his father, who encouraged him to get involved in an inner city mentoring program in Rochester.

"I have been aware of the needs of minorities, physically challenged individuals....and children from single parent homes," Craig said.

He has been active with Big Brothers/Big Sisters of the Southern Adirondacks, matching children with adults, as well as the Northern Haiti Sustainability Initiative. Through his involvement with the Adirondack Run-

ners Club, he has organized fundraising events for local charities, in particular, the Adirondack

Polar Cap Race through the Lake George Winter Carnival. Donated non-perishable items are given to a local food pantry and proceeds from registration fees go to the NHSI that he has helped support for 15 years. He also contributes his own money to the cause.

Craig procured land with a friend and worked with a Canadian charity, which financed construction of a school in rural Northern Haiti. He and his son, Cole, share a passion for the NHSI and have worked to help keep the school running for the

long term through financial training and by helping to fund books, school supplies, and meals.

During one of Craig's yearly, personally-funded mission trips to Haiti, he was severely injured and required surgery. It took him almost a year to recover.

"A high price to pay for such charitable work. That's generosity and bravery for sure," said Craig's nominator, Frank Munoff. "Craig has made our community a better place through his leadership....and inspired so many others to make a difference by following his example and joining him in his social commitment to help others."



**Judy Hagan
Brown**

of North River, NY

Information provided by:
Terry and Maureen Barber

Described as: Compassionate, committed, hard-working, selfless and kind-hearted

Judy said becoming active in the community enabled her to get to know people when she moved back to her hometown. Her work for one organization grew into helping out another, and another.

"I just feel like a lucky, blessed person and this (Shining Stars recognition) is just over the top," she said.

Judy's volunteerism began in Queensbury while raising four sons with her husband and running J and J Jewelry. She was active with the Boy Scouts, the First Presbyterian Church of Glens Falls and LARAC. When her hus-

band, Joe, retired from teaching, they moved back to North River.

Judy is on the Board of Directors of Adirondack Community Outreach Center, which runs a food pantry and backpack program and provides Christmas toys and clothing to area residents. She has been a CPR instructor and member of the Gore Mountain Ski Patrol for 29 years.

She received approval for the site of the North Creek Ski Bowl Garden at Little Gore and works with other volunteers, as well as the teens from Youthworks, to maintain it every year. She recently applied for and received a grant for landscaping needs for the town.

Judy is a member of the North

River Methodist Church and writes letters to the community asking for financial support. She runs a wreath-making workshop and hosts weekly spiritual get-togethers.

Judy teaches jewelry-making classes and helps with a dinner/fashion show for the Town of Johnsbury Library. She is a board member of Tannery Pond, past president of Johnsbury Chamber of Commerce and a wildlife rehabilitator.

"Judy inspires those around her by her shining example of devoting herself to every aspect of her small community to make it a better place in which to live," said nominators Terry and Maureen Barber.



*Rene
Clements*
of Queensbury

Information provided by:
Kris Flower, Sean Magee
and Patty Kircher

Described as: Funny, creative, organized, devoted and determined

Rene Clements said she always knew volunteering would become part of her life.

“When you find an agency or cause that you believe in the personal rewards are so gratifying. It is the satisfaction of knowing you helped in some small way to make a difference,” she said.

Rene serves on the Board of Directors for Adirondack Theatre Festival, The Conkling Center, The Glen at Hiland Meadows, LARAC, Glens Falls Collaborative and Wiawaka.

With her sister, Jane Gibbs, who

is also a 2018 Shining Star honoree, she is active either volunteering for or promoting the following:

Glens Falls Community Theater, South Glens Falls Dance Marathon, Glens Falls Brewfest, Glens Falls Senior Citizen Center, Art in the Public Eye, Wood Theater, Special Olympics, Women’s Walk, SMSA Players, Pencils for Puerto Rico, Wreaths Across America, The Strand, Open Door Mission, Adirondack Film Festival, Broadway Upstate, Alzheimer’s Walk, Lake Theater, Taste of the North Country, Youtheatre, FARA Benefit, CWI, North Country Ministry, WAIT House and the drama departments of local high schools.

“(Rene and Jane) will suggest collaborative ideas and efforts between organizations, they engage friends and family to join them in projects they hold near and dear and they have a keen sense for finding and suggesting just the right person to possibly join a board of directors or committee,” said nominators Kris Flower, Sean Magee and Patty Kircher.

“Receiving this award is an honor I will cherish forever,” Rene said. “I plan to continue to work with these wonderful organizations for as long as I am able. And to all the recipients today, congratulations for making an amazing difference to so many.”



*Diane
Collins*
of Glens Falls

Information provided by:
Bernice Mennis

Diane Collins said she was “hooked” on community service after hearing on the radio an environmentalist speak about global issues and the need to act quickly. She and friends formed TriCounty NY Transition. The group partners with Crandall Public Library on the film series, “In the Public Interest” and shows monthly films on environmental and social justice issues. She also was instrumental in forming a citizen climate action group that meets with the Glens Falls Sustainability Committee to talk about renewable energy initiatives.

“My goal as a citizen advocate has been to raise interest and community commitment to do our part in addressing climate change,” she said.

In addition, Diane delivers meals for Meals on Wheels and drives people to medical appointments. She has been a hospice volunteer and is active with Aging in Place.

At the Universalist Unitarian Church, she is involved on the Social Justice Committee and participates in actions for immigrants.

Diane contributes proceeds from a book of her wildflower

photography to non-profit organizations and contributes columns on wildflowers and birds for the Southern Audubon Fledgling magazine.

Diane contributes to the community through compassion and generosity, according to nominator Bernice Mennis.

“I honor her extraordinary work, spirit and being,” nominator Bernice said.

“Receiving a Star Award mirrors for me the many, many people in our town that give to others in so many ways. We are a community filled with lots and lots of Shining Stars,” Diane said.



*Susan L.
Ford*

of Queensbury

Information provided by:
Linda Lee and Catherine Gericke

Described as: Leader, supportive, generous, caring and enthusiastic

Sue said she became involved in volunteerism because “of a desire to contribute to organizations that benefit so many.”

While a Ballard Road elementary school teacher, she directed theatrical performances both for and with the children in the district and started a Drama Club after her retirement.

Susan has been active with the

Glens Falls Community Theater for 48 years as an actor, production manager and on various boards and committees and with the Adirondack Theater Festival. She is past president of the Boards of Directors of the Glens Falls Symphony and Charles R. Wood Theater, where she is also a director and actor for the Senior Seminar.

She was a volunteer host for “WCKM for Arts on the Air” for 45 years, a half-hour interview show, on what is now Regional

Radio Group.

Sue is involved with LARAC, the Salvation Army, WAIT House and Open Door Mission.

“Sue gives her talent, time and treasure to further the arts in our community,” said nominator Linda Lee. “She works tirelessly and quietly, never looking for any praise for her hard work.”

“I receive this award humbly, touched that others believe my involvement deserves recognition,” Sue said.



*Linda
Gagnon-
Plante*

of Glens Falls

Information provided by:
Austin Gagnon

Described as: Energetic, patriotic, civic minded, compassionate and nurturing

Linda learned about giving to her community from watching her father, who was a volunteer fireman and paramedic in Cohoes, and her mother, who signed her up to be a candy striper at St. Mary's Hospital in Troy.

“I was so proud when I earned my little pink and white nurse's cap for working 100 volunteer hours,” Linda said.

Linda was active with many fundraising projects in her children's schools and worked in the cafeteria as a lunch cook. She was known as the “good food lady” and became famous for her Jedi Mix.

Linda became involved with the American Red Cross following the World Trade Center attacks. She has taken courses in mass care, feeding and sheltering and is qualified to drive the emergency response vehicles. She has been deployed to six hurricanes, including Katrina in 2005, and helped to rebuild homes in Louisiana and Mississippi with a Presbyterian Church disaster assistance team. Recently she helped run shelters for residents of Boston who lost electricity during a severe Nor'easter.

She received a Red Cross Hero award and was named Hero of the Game during an Adirondack Thunder Hockey Game for aiding both heart attack and choking victims.

Linda is active in her church community and has fostered five teenagers through the Northeast Parent and Child Society. She was the second woman admitted to the Queensbury Kiwanis Club and its first female president.

As a member of the Economic Development Committee in the 1990s, she not only owned her own businesses but helped promote others. She is a crossing guard for the Glens Falls School District.

Linda said she is honored to be named a Shining Star and credits her father with inspiring her all those years ago.

“Together we're still giving and going strong! Thanks, Dad,” she said.



Jane Gibbs

of Hudson Falls

Information provided:
Kris Flower, Sean Magee
and Patty Kircher

Described as: Patient, dedicated, genuine, giving and nonjudgmental

Jane Gibbs got her start in volunteerism when her children were in school. She supported them through the PTA, Booster Club and as a co-leader in Boy Scouts. She also was involved with Operation Santa Claus in its early years.

"It just gives you a wonderful feeling of being able to help in a small way and all it costs is your time," she said.

Jane has been a member of the

Board of Directors for the Adirondack Theatre Festival for 15 years.

With her sister, Rene Clements, who is also a 2018 Shining Star honoree, she is active either volunteering for or promoting the following: Glens Falls Community Theater, South Glens Falls Dance Marathon, Glens Falls Brewfest, Glens Falls Senior Citizen Center, Art in the Public Eye, Wood Theater, Special Olympics, Women's Walk, SMSA Players, Pencils for Puerto Rico, Wreaths Across America, The Strand, Open Door Mission, Adirondack

Film Festival, Broadway Upstate, Alzheimer's Walk, Lake Theater, Taste of the North Country, Youtheatre, FARA Benefit, CWI, North Country Ministry, WAIT House and the drama departments of local high schools.

"The two sisters are involved in so many ways, and attend so many events together, that they have become a touchstone for local philanthropy," said nominators Kris Flower, Sean Magee and Patty Kircher. "They inspire us to see that volunteering is more than just raising funds, attending meetings or (wo)manning a booth."



Beverly Kilts

of Glens Falls

Information provided by:
Kim Bren

Described as: Dedicated, intelligent, giving, caring and respectful

Beverly is no stranger to volunteerism. After her children were grown, she and her husband, Gordon, traveled across the country helping with new construction and the renovation of church summer camps.

When Gordon died in 2011, Beverly needed to recreate a life for herself. She drove by the Glens Falls Senior Center one day about six years ago and spontaneously pulled into the parking lot.

"I was greeted so warmly, I

filled out the papers and joined," she said. "That first year I signed up for practically everything and over time volunteered to help where I was able...(and) my connection with the Center has been a vital part in my effort to rebuild my life."

Beverly answers phones, serves as volunteer coordinator and solicits from businesses and assembles baskets for raffles. She is on the Hospitality and Gardening Committees and is instrumental in the Gifts for Goldens program, a partnership with a local radio station to provide a holiday for seniors living alone or in an area nursing home. She coordinates

the seniors' wish lists and posts on the Center's Facebook page, wraps gifts and delivers them. This past year, Beverly and her group delivered to 187 area seniors.

"Bev is a person you can count on. She is completely committed to help at the center," said nominator Kim Bren.

Beverly said she is grateful for being named a Shining Star.

"It's always good to know one's efforts have indeed helped and, possibly, one has made a difference. And, the fact this award has been given to me by those I consider dear friends makes it doubly special," she said.



*Judge David
B. Krogmann*
of Glens Falls

Information provided by:
Jason Krogmann

Described as: Honest, dedicated, hardworking, loving and Pop Pop (what his grandchildren call him)

Judge David B. Krogmann said serving on various boards and committees in his community has been rewarding, not only through making worthy contributions but also because he has established lifetime friends.

"Their dedication to whatever the cause has been a joy to be a part of," he said.

David's nominator, his son, Ja-

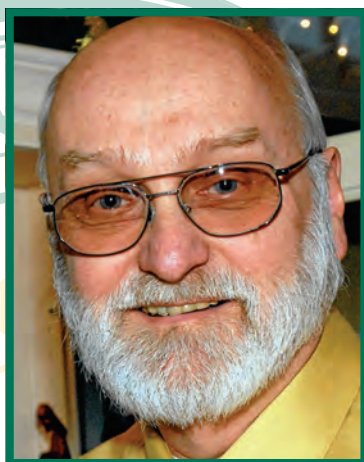
son, doesn't remember a time his father turned down anyone who needed help with legal advice, a speech for an event or even with getting a sidewalk shoveled.

"I can't tell you how many people I come across that make sure they go out of their way to tell me how good of a man my father is," Jason said.

David is a member of the Board of Directors for The United Way, the Adirondack Thunder, The Chapman Historical Museum and Crandall Public Library, where he also served as president. He often

preaches in the pastor's absence at The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, where he is treasurer and he and his wife, Barb, donate their beach house for fundraisers for various charities.

"I am simply overwhelmed by the news that I will receive the Shining Stars Award. To me, community service as never been an obligation but just something that you do to help contribute to your community," David said. "Hopefully, there will be many more future and exciting opportunities in the future years."



*Stanley
Malecki*
of Glens Falls

Information provided by:
Sharon Jensen

Described as: Dedicated, trustworthy, helpful, honorable and loyal

Retired Glens Falls teacher Stan Malecki said receiving a Shining Stars honor is both humbling and embarrassing.

"One volunteers for the intrinsic 're'ward, not the 'a'ward. I see a need and just 'do.'" he said. "I appreciate the recognition by the nominators, but am more comfortable working under the radar."

Stan is the author of two books about local history. He has been an educator at the Chapman

Museum and Slate Valley Museum and is now the educational director of programs at The Historical Society of Moreau and South Glens Falls. Stan brings some programs, like History Mystery, The Underground Railroad through Quilts and Native Americans to local schools and organizations. He painstakingly executes the annual display of 100 nativity sets from around the world for Parks/Bentley Place during the Christmas season.

As a member of the Glens Falls Cemetery Commission, he was an originator of the Cemetery Tours

that continue today. He was instrumental in restoring Abraham Wing's headstone at the Bay Street Cemetery.

Stan worked in getting a new club house and bandstand as part of the Crandall Park Beautification Committee and contributes to area charities, businesses and individuals.

"The main part of volunteering is having a passion for the work you do. It gives you a reason to get up in the morning, do your thing, know that you are appreciated and see the results of your efforts," he said.



*Barbara
Munch*

of Gansevoort

Information provided by:
Roseann Anzalone

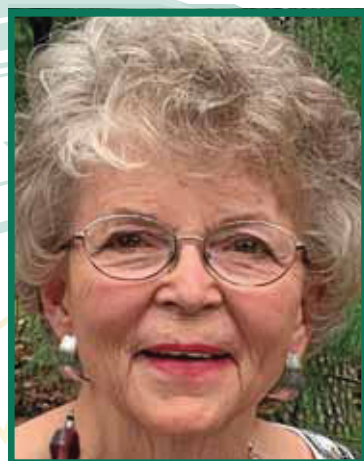
Described as: Inspiring, kind-hearted, impassioned, respectful and catalytic

Barbara Munch not only knits hats and gloves to students in the Head Start program through the Greenwich Town Thrift Shop but she is passionate about working with students who are learning English as a second language as a

Literacy volunteer.

Each week she works holds a class and takes another day to work individually with those who need extra help. Nominator Roseann Anzalone said Barbara is both a mentor and mother or grandmother to these students and helps students navigate paperwork so they can make informed decisions.

“Barb gives both her time and her heart to the learners in her classes. She develops a rapport and trust that allows them to open up and ask her personal questions...When you observe Barb with her students, you can see in her face, and especially her eyes, the pride that she feels as her learners make improvements and reach their goals,” said Roseanne.



*Mary Lou
Munger*

of Fort Edward

Information provided by:
Julie Leonelli

Described as: Energetic, optimistic, curious, empathetic and adventurous

Mary Lou is described by nominator Julie Leonelli as being a “mover and a shaker.”

“She inspires everyone who knows her to strive to be better people,” Julie said.

Mary Lou, a former teacher at Adirondack Community College, recently returned from her 14th visit with the Guatemala

Medical Mission that helped build a school in a small town. She monitors bluebird boxes with the Audubon Society, delivers Meals on Wheels, helps at the thrift shop at the Saratoga Hospital, volunteers at Habitat Restore and is a former volunteer at Glens Falls Hospital.

She was a member of the Planning Board when she lived in South Glens Falls.

Mary Lou learned volunteerism

from watching her mother, who had six children and not a lot of money.

“I feel so good when I am helping others. I’m grateful and tell people I get more out of it than they do. I guess that’s God’s reward,” Mary Lou said.



Daniel
Olden

of Queensbury, NY

Information provided by:
Renee Hanks and Daniel Olden

Described as: Loyal, selfless, tireless, humble and compassionate

Dan said that growing up with limited resources made him appreciate the support and assistance of family and friends. He vowed that when he was able, he would pay it back by helping others.

Dan places wreaths at Arlington National Cemetery and escorts World War II veterans to various memorials in Washington DC as part of the Patriot Riders Guard. He is also involved with the American Legion Riders and the Masons.

Dan belongs to the Adirondack Runners Club, volunteering at races and co-coordinating the Adirondack Sumer Track Series. Through his business, DoRight Timing, he donates his time and services to local charity races for such causes as Operation Santa Claus, Northern Haiti Sustainability Initiative and Goblin Gallop Run.

Dan, a cancer survivor, has instructed other cancer survivors and inactive adults to train toward walking or running in Couch to 5K, a program associated with the Glens Falls Hospital that is geared to survivors and

others dealing with cancer. He is also active with Relay for Life.

Dan works with Camp Under the Woods Foundation and in the past, Cindy's Comfort Camp at Double H Ranch and Big Brothers/Big Sisters of the Southern Adirondacks.

"I feel just by Dan's selfless volunteerism, community involvement and his kind and humble manner, he is an inspiration to all as he leads us by example," said nominator Renee Hanks.

"I hope to be able to continue helping and being satisfied that all the little parts bring some relief or joy to others," Dan said.



Joseph
Orlow

of South Glens Falls

Information provided by:
Dawn LaCarte

Described as: Determined, enthusiastic, humble, kind and an advocate

Joe said he is involved in community service because of all the people who gave their time to make him the person he is today.

He has served as the mayor of the Village of South Glens Falls and as an election inspector and was a member of the Zoning Board and Comprehensive Planning Committee. He was on the

Republican Committee and is the former chair of the South Glens Falls /Town of Moreau Health Department.

Joe has been president of the Moreau Community Center and is a member of the Knights of Columbus, an usher at St. Michael's Church and a member of the South Glens Falls Chamber of Commerce. He is a member of the South Glens Falls Rotary Club and PETA and serves on the Building Committee at Friends

Church.

Joe is the founder of Highland Enterprises.

"Joe hasgiven shelter to unfortunate people who were down on their luck out of the goodness of his heart. You can always count on Joe to do the right thing, no matter what," said nominator Dawn LaCarte.

"I have had a phenomenal life," Joe said. "So I believe you pass it forward. I am humbled and honored to receive this recognition."



Virginia
Parrott

of Fort Ann

Information provided by:
Rebecca Cottone

Described as: Tough, courageous, strong-willed, generous and amazing

Virginia is passionate about her community and does her part to make it a better place to live. She has taught people to knit, crochet and read.

She has been the Fort Ann Town Historian for more than 45 years and the Registrar of Vital Statistics and the Fort Ann Tax Collector for almost as long. She has worked to keep and preserve Battle Hill as sacred ground. She

is also a member of the Fort Ann Historical Society and Washington County Historical Society.

“(Virginia) has a vast knowledge of Fort Ann and the families of Fort Ann. People call all the time from out of state or just stop by needing information on their family from years ago and she will drop everything to help them,” said nominator Rebecca Cottone.

Virginia supports the Fort Ann Fire Department and Rescue Squad and is active with BPW,

Queen Ann Senior Citizens, Glens Falls Hospital and Red Hat Society. She volunteers with Sandy Hill Cruisers and Adirondack Car Enthusiasts and helped raise \$4,000 that was given to the Southern Adirondack Independent Living Center.

Virginia is also battling five different types of cancer and has endured multiple treatments and surgeries. Still, she inspires others.

“She is not giving up! She is fighting,” Rebecca said.



David
Perkins

of Hudson Falls

Information provided by:
Jennifer Sciolla and
Valerie Chapman

Described as: Honest, dedicated, organized, detailed and objective

David Perkins has many motivations for giving back to his community, including his love of the outdoors and activities like biking and snowmobiling.

“If we – my entire family was involved in form or another – made things better for others, it would also be better for ourselves,” David said.

The retired Hudson Falls School teacher is active with Barnstormers Snowmobile Club, Washington County Association of Snowmobile Clubs, Champlain

Canalway Trail, Hudson Crossing Park, Sons of the American Legion, Hudson Falls United Methodist Church, Washington County Agriculture Planning and Tourism Committee, Ashlar Lodge Free and Accepted Masons and NYS Department of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. He is a trails manager for several snowmobile clubs.

In 1992, Dave and his family were named Snowmobile Family of the Year for the US for their service to snowmobile clubs in New York State.

Dave was president of the Hud-

son Falls Girls Softball League, a member of the Hudson Falls/Kingsbury Recreation Committee and International Council of Snowmobile Administrators. He was involved with the PTSO and coached modified and freshman football and girls basketball.

“He is positive, able to see both sides of issues and organized and enthusiastic,” said nominators Jennifer Sciolla and Valerie Chapman. “He is respected by officials in state organizations for his interest, energy and knowledge, which becomes infectious to others.”



George
Sicard

of Lake George

Information provided by:
Geri Feeder

Described as: Compassionate, courageous, generous, resourcefully innovative, unassuming

George Sicard chose professional firefighting for a career, which, while hazardous, is indicative of his wish to help others. He also chose to do his work in his hometown of Glens Falls.

Twenty-one years ago, a local pharmacist and friend persuaded George to be part of the Glens Falls Medical Mission – Project Guatemala. It was just the start of a long career in volunteerism that included 15 missions and time served on the Executive Board and as a team leader.

From this original project,

George became active with La-Mancha, Inc. and Friends for the Working Children, helping to build schools and renovate an orphanage in poor areas of Guatemala and Peru.

George is a wish granter with Make A Wish Foundation of Northeast New York and helps organize Wacks Ride for Wishes, which has raised around \$250,000 to help grant wishes for local children.

George is involved with the Homeless Youth Coalition and helps his elderly neighbors by plowing out their driveways or sidewalks. He visits area high schools to inspire students to volunteer.

“By sharing his life experiences,

encouraging and challenging students to get involved in any way then can, he demonstrates to people how everyone has a gift to be shared, even when they think they don’t matter,” said nominator Geri Feeder.

George said he is humbled to be named a Shining Star and volunteers because he gets satisfaction in making a difference in people’s lives and futures.

“Our area stands out with its generosity for so many causes all during the year. Kudos to The Post-Star for their generosity to many causes and their programs that recognize many different ages – Shining Stars, Teen Excellence, etc. Thank you for this honor,” George said.



Ralph
White

of North Granville

Information provided by:
Jenna Remington

Described as: Kind, selfless, strong, reliable and thoughtful

Ralph White used to spend 3 1/2 to 4 hours a day in the Renal Dialysis Center at Glens Falls Hospital when his wife was a patient. When she died six years ago, he found volunteering eased the pain of her passing. He has found comfort volunteering in the very

place his wife was treated.

He deals with his own physical ailments but brings baked goods for the other patients. He also helps out by fetching them coffee, wheeling them to their cars and just making them feel better.

“Ralph is an inspiration of kindness. Despite the fact that he has health concerns, he still continues to show up even if it means having a family member

bring him by for a few hours. He’s even shown up in the midst of a snowstorm. We had to encourage him to leave and avoid the slick roads,” said nominator Jenna Remington.

Ralph said volunteering makes him feel “wonderful.”

“To volunteer makes one’s heart fill with pride. If I can make a person’s day a little brighter, it fills my heart with joy,” he said.