

2021 Governor's Points of Light Award Finalists

All finalists are listed in alphabetical order per category

Individual Volunteer Finalists

ELLEN BORDINAO

Ellen is a retired Clark County School District teacher and Administrator. Her daughter Janie was also a teacher just starting out but lost her battle to cancer on January 15th, 2019 at age 26. Ellen made sure her daughter's legacy lives on by creating Janie's Classroom at the Andre Agassi Foundation for Education Center at Cure 4 The Kids' Foundation. The classroom is equipped with a CCSD educator and two teacher's aides as well as amazing technology to help with educating the patients and their families who visit. Janie always wanted to teach children who were diagnosed with cancer, so she and her mother decided to do it together. As Ellen says, "God had other plans for Janie" though Ellen continued to keep her promise. With the help of the Andre Agassi Foundation and Clark County School District Superintendent Dr. Jesus Jara, they were able to make it come to fruition. Now every child who walks through the door battling their critical illness can be seen by knowledgeable teachers at the education center and get assistance with school.



MARSHA BUTLER

Marsha began volunteering at Safe Nest in 2011 after being introduced to the organization at a Volunteer Fair hosted by MGM Resorts International. Marsha has accumulated over 300 volunteer hours while employed at MGM Resorts from 2017-2020 and with almost 10 years of volunteerism for the organization and several other nonprofits, Marsha has proven her notable dedication and endless commitment to volunteering. When asked why she choose Safe Nest, Marsha explained, "I love kids and the chance to make a difference in someone's life and after speaking with a representative for their organization and learning more about the services they offer, I knew that this was the organization I could try to help." After completing the mandatory domestic awareness training for volunteers, Marsha started volunteering with Safe Nest on a regular basis. She discovered her passion in becoming a children's advocate for the organization and began volunteering on a continuous basis at the organization's shelter.



CATHY MAUPIN

As a volunteer with the Alzheimer's Association, Cathy facilitates two monthly support groups for caregivers who are the adult children of people living with Alzheimer's or other dementia. Not only has she turned the experience of caring for and losing a loved one to Alzheimer's disease into a way to support others, she has been doing it for 15 years and has helped hundreds of families along the way. By holding space for people experiencing the toughest of challenges, Cathy is offering a lifeline for many. When the pandemic began and it became clear that meeting in person was not going to be possible for some time, Cathy knew the group members needed more help than ever before, and she pivoted to running the meetings by Zoom. Cathy describes sharing stories and tears with Nevada state legislators, holding hands with Senator Harry Reid as they discussed the experiences of Nevadans living with Alzheimer's, and sitting with Congressman Mark Amodei as he spoke of his support for Alzheimer's legislation and increased research funding. Such advocacy is having an impact. The federal government now invests seven times more in Alzheimer's research than a decade ago.



Individual Youth Volunteer Finalists

AIYANA CASTRO

During the pandemic, Aiyana responded to a volunteer recruitment ad from Infinity Hospice Care to write cards for hospice patients. Not only did she write cards, she took it upon herself to plan something amazing for the patients during the holidays, reaching out to the community to ensure all 180 hospice patients received a gift for the holidays. She took that goal even further, filling a moving truck with thousands of other items like blankets, robes, fuzzy socks and pajamas for men and women and special stocking stuffers for the veteran patients. Aiyana a huge advocate for the hospice community and also serves with the Ronald McDonald House, Make A Wish of Southern Nevada, Candlelighters Cancer Foundation and other nonprofit organizations in Las Vegas. With over 1600 hours of Community Service from last year to the present date, her accomplishments have been recognized by Representative Steven Horsford's office, Representative Dina Titus' office and Governor Steve Sisolak along with being recognized as a Nevada's Hero of the Day for extraordinary work in the community.

KYLER NIPPER

Kyler was stabbed in his chest over his shoes in school in 6th grade. After emergency surgery saved his life, he struggles with PTSD. Kyler founded Kyler's Kicks as his healing and his organization has given away over 42,000 pairs of shoes to those in need. After Kyler's own family became homeless due to the cost of medical bills and mental health care, Kyler wanted to ensure that every teen was able to afford quality mental health programs. Kyler and his parents raised \$20,000 to open the first location of Kyler's Kicks free teen mental health lounge while



sleeping on the streets themselves. Kyler gave away over 25,000 pairs of shoes while living on the streets with zero resources.

In 2019, Kyler expanded Kyler's Kicks to include the first free teen mental health lounge in Las Vegas. Teens in 6th-12th grade benefit from free art and music therapy, entrepreneurship and financial therapy, meditation, massages and reiki healing, family support and so much more. Now 15 years old, Kyler is an extraordinary example of turning tragedy into triumph.

QUINN VANHORN

Quinn is a 12 year old volunteer brakeman on the excursion trains for the Boulder City Railroad Museum and Friends of the Nevada Southern Railway. After she joined the Exploring Club at the museum, she was determined to learn to be a train engineer, starting to learn the other train crew positions that lead up to train engineer. She quickly grasped the car attendant job and moved to the next position, brakeman. This position required completion of a written test on the General Code of Operating Rules with the Federal Railroad Administration along with on-the-job training. She volunteers for a full 8-hour shift almost every weekend on either Saturday or Sunday, exceeding the typical 8-12 hours per month that most volunteers spend at the museum. Shy at first, she now has the confidence and skill of her adult counterparts and makes radio comments, controls the train, provides information and clearance signal of the track ahead, sounds the horn for grade crossing, and pays remarkable attention to details when performing various train inspections, all under adult supervision due to her age. In a male-dominated field, Quinn has set her sights on becoming one of the small number of female train engineers in the future.



National Service Member Finalists

AMANDA MULHOLLAND

Amanda is serving her second term as an AmeriCorps member with Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation, working with programs at the Nevada Department of Wildlife. She spends time educating visitors at the Oxbow Nature Study area in Reno, along with performing tasks to improve the park such as picking up refuse, trimming back willows or maintaining the ever-growing beaver dam. She has educated thousands of 4th grade students through the “Know Your Nevada” and the “Trout in the Classroom” programs, along with leading field trips at Oxbow. When the pandemic began, programs needed to be delivered virtually and she developed programs like Bring the Birds, Wondrous Woodpeckers, Nevada’s Endangered Species and Birds of the Truckee River just to name a few. She also created and facilitated virtual field trips. Along with fellow AmeriCorps members, she implemented a virtual summer Camp-In-A-Box which will be open to 32 students over 4 different themed weeks. She is consistently present, enthusiastic and forward thinking when it comes to connecting people to their urban wildlife.



JARET REYES

Jaret was recruited as an AmeriCorps member during the summer of 2020, right in the middle of the pandemic and stepped up to be a part of a program that was focused on helping students in the Las Vegas community through the City of Las Vegas Department of Youth Development and Social Innovation. It became apparent that families and students would need help getting connected to resources and they formed the Community Navigators. As a Community Navigator, Jaret helped student connect with the internet for distance learning, helped families



connect to resources for housing so they wouldn't lose their homes and also assisted with chronic absenteeism projects. As school began, teachers were noticing that many students were absent from class. Jaret and other navigators went knocking on doors to make sure families had the resources they needed to keep students connected with their schools. Once school returned to in-person learning, that did not stop Jaret. He created enticing videos to get kids to school, and participated in AttenDANCE parties for kids with perfect attendance. There wasn't a problem too big for Jaret to handle and he always put the needs of the community first.

CANDICE TEAL

Candice is an exemplary member of the Walker Basin Conservancy AmeriCorps Restoration Team. Now serving her second term with WBC, she was uncertain at first of her ability to perform the hard work and long days required of the position. She fell in love with the conservation work and immediately impacted the other members with her positive attitude and sense of humor. Candice's crew leader soon found that she was a reliable partner in planning projects for the day and identifying potential obstacles. Due to her demonstrated leadership and commitment, Candice was selected to



step into the role of an Assistant Crew Leader for the second half of her term. Field conservation work can be extremely challenging, especially for new members. The crews spend up to 10 hours in the cold or heat of the day, planting native vegetation, removing weeds, laying irrigation, building fences, and hand-watering plants. This work can get tedious, tiring and complicated. Candice, driven by her passion for nature and restoring the environment, pushes herself and her team to complete projects to the best of their abilities and strives to motivate others.

Community Leadership Finalist

TONYA BRUM

Nonprofit work and volunteerism are a central role in Tonya's life and have been for the past 50 years. Since she moved to Nevada in 1974, she threw herself into volunteer work with organizations such as Muscular Dystrophy Foundation, American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, Big Brothers, Big Sisters, Make-A-Wish Foundation, Temporary Assistance for Domestic Crisis, Christmas in April (now Rebuilding Together), Nathan Adelson Hospice, Pioneer Territory CASA, Soroptomist International in Pahrump Valley and the Pahrump Valley Chamber of Commerce. She is currently the Field Representative in Nye County for RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program). She began volunteering with RSVP in October 2018 and has since served nearly 2,400 hours. Her background and vast experience with other nonprofit organizations give her a unique perspective and enable her to assess and assist some of the most vulnerable and frail older Nevadans. Tonya is one of those people who have just the right approach and that special touch that some outstanding volunteers possess, one that puts people at ease because she is such a no-nonsense problem solver.



Lifetime Achievement Finalists

SERAFIN CALVO

A Las Vegas native, Serafin has been an active volunteer across the valley for 32 years. Serafin grew up as one of nine children, raised in the housing projects near 28th Street and Bonanza. Gang influence was big in the 1980s and was beginning to pull him in. Through service, Serafin overcame the odds and beat the statistics. He found serving others to be his vehicle out of gang life. He discovered service during his two-year mission to Chile as a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. In 1989, Serafin began mentoring at-risk youth in neighborhoods with a heavy gang presence, counseling kids on the risks of gang life, alcoholism and drug addiction. In 1992, Serafin expanded his volunteer efforts to adopting families who are less fortunate or are grieving the loss of a loved one for Christmas, suiting up as Santa to bring presents and cheer to children and peace of mind to their families. Many summers, Serafin coordinated back to school professional haircuts and community closets for children in need, enabling them to walk into class with confidence to begin the school year. Serafin also hosts "The Kickback 702," a podcast geared toward harder-to-talk-about topics in lower income communities and how to address them, reaching listeners and subscribers around the world. Serafin is the quintessential public servant, and he has personified the idea of leading by example.



CHUCK DOBBS

Chuck Dobbs is a 22-year volunteer for the American Cancer Society Relay For Life. He has held multiple positions on the event planning team to include Entertainment, Activities, Luminary, and script writing. One of Chucks best qualities is his desire to mentor new volunteers and provide them with the tools and knowledge so they too can be successful in their volunteer role. Most volunteers burn out after five years or so, but not Chuck - he brings the fun! His energy and passion set the bar high and he has been nicknamed Relay Man. His knowledge of the American Cancer Society and their mission is exemplary. This knowledge helps recruit new teams, participants, and leadership team members. Relay For Life is not Chucks only passion, he has been a volunteer for Boy Scouts of America for over 31 years, starting in 1990 as a den leader for his oldest son's pack. He held many positions over those years, all the way up to the overall district training chair. Chuck is an inspiration to all and is lighting the torch to pass along leadership to others one day.



PAT REVZIN

Pat started volunteering with Make-A-Wish Southern Nevada in July of 2001. In those 20 years, she served hundreds of hours every year as a Wish Granter, Wish Story Writer, Celebrity Wish Host, Airport Greeter, Event Volunteer and anything else she is asked to do. Wish Granter volunteerism is much like social work case assignment, walking a wish child from their wish discovery all the way through the wish granted, often involving months of planning/resource gathering to execute a child's true wish. While most Wish Granters take on one child a year, it is not uncommon for Pat to assist with as many as 4-5 a year. She never shies away from children who are non-verbal or children who have terminal diagnoses, sometimes the most difficult children to pair with volunteers. Not only is she an active volunteer, she also is a major donor and entices more monthly donors into the Wish-Maker Club and continually makes large asks from the community to complete wish granting for children. She inspires all the Make-A-Wish team through her exemplary performance.



Nonprofit or Community Organization Volunteer Program Finalists

NEVADA DIABETES ASSOCIATION

The mission of the Nevada Diabetes Association for Children and Adults (NDA) is to improve the lives of anyone affected by diabetes through direct programs and service, education, prevention and advocacy. The NDA is on the pulse of the diabetes community and consistently provides individuals with the latest information



about diabetes self-management tools and other vital information. The NDA has over 300 volunteers who volunteer their time to assist with special events, support group programs (families, teens, adults), camp programs, and diabetes education programs. These volunteers have a retention rate of over 80%. The NDA's Camp programs for children and teens (ages 7-17) have the most impact. Doctors, nurses, certified diabetes educators, dieticians and other representatives from the medical community volunteer their time to attend the resident camp programs. Campers and physicians interact in a non-clinical environment and have a longer time to engage in relevant discourse that is often neglected in a "timed" office visit. The organization provides programs and services for anyone affected by diabetes in the community thanks to the dedication of their volunteers.

SPARKS HERITAGE MUSEUM

The Sparks Heritage Museum was established in 1985, by a wholly volunteer team with the mission to collect and preserve the historical and cultural heritage of the City of Sparks and surrounding Truckee Meadows for the education and enjoyment of present and future generations. Although the museum began employing a Director in early 2000, 99% of the operations are still performed by volunteers, some of whom have been serving for more than twenty years. The Museum supports city events, community programs, and provides educational opportunities, impacting generations of Sparks residents.



Volunteers conduct educational programs, lectures, and catalog collection materials to provide public access for research, along with providing tours to thousands of local school children for the 36 years the Museum has existed. In 2006, Sparks was designated as one of the "Preserve America" communities under the leadership of the Sparks Heritage Museum's dedication to establishing Sparks as a community steeped in rich cultural traditions and history of the American West. The volunteers serve as proud representatives of the city for tourists and locals alike and will continue to serve the community of Sparks and the surrounding region.

THE GOOD DEED PROJECT

The Good Deed Project was conceived as a pro-bono service project in 2014, with the goal of providing safe and nurturing environments for two local shelters, Living Grace Homes and Safe House. Through a series of good deeds in form of volunteering and material donations, the shelters were renovated with over 10,000 hours of volunteer time in the value of nearly \$300k of upgrades without a charge to the recipient organizations. The process and the results of projects had such an impact on the people who helped make them possible, they insisted the good deed initiative be formed into an official nonprofit and pledged to continue volunteering on future renovation projects. Over the last 6 years, their ever growing volunteer team has evolved into a diverse, generous, hard-working and caring group of people with a wide-ranging wealth of skills and abilities they are extremely proud of: a great balance of genders, ethnicities and LGBTQ+ individuals ranging in ages from 4 to 76 years-old; moms, high school and university students, medical professional, construction tradesmen, corporate CEO's, finance experts, and Veterans; individuals who are self-employed, unemployed, ailing, on criminal probation and their clients who all have the desire equal to pay it forward. Such altruism and charity minded focus made it possible for The Good Deed Project to become a reality and is the life-blood of their life-changing impact in the lives of those they serve.



Business or Corporate Volunteer Program Finalists

BARCLAYS

Every year, thousands of Barclays colleagues from around the world get involved with the causes they are passionate about - bringing their collective energy, commitment and expertise to make a meaningful impact to the communities they serve by taking part in Citizenship activities. In their

seven years in Southern Nevada, on average over 80% of their colleagues volunteer up to five days per year. The majority of Barclays volunteer initiatives are based around skills and employability – resume/CV writing, mock interviews etc. – but colleagues also have the opportunity to volunteer for other causes they may be passionate about, such as supporting the local food bank or schools in the area. Some of the organizations that have benefitted from Barclays volunteers are HELP of Southern Nevada, Tech Impact, Junior Achievement of Southern Nevada, Relay for Life, St. Judes Ranch for Children, Ronald McDonald House Charities, Spread the Word Nevada, Three Square Food Bank and Silvestri Jr. High School. Barclays' Henderson site has nearly 1,100 passionate colleagues and this number is growing. From day one of orientation, new hires participate in a new hire volunteer project organized by Barclays and learn about the many community and volunteer initiatives where they can serve.



WYNN RESORTS, LIMITED

Wynn Resorts, and Wynn Las Vegas, LLC has a strong history of volunteerism and commitment to the communities where its employees live and work. In early February, more than 170 Wynn Las Vegas employees attended the 2020 Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon in honor of their contribution of 44,000+ volunteer hours logged in our community for 2019. Prior to the pandemic, the company organized an average of 15 to 20 company sponsored community events each month. The events supported dozens of organizations with missions ranging from food insecurity to cultural enrichment. While operations ground to a halt in March 2020, employees still responded immediately to the direst needs of the community, serving individuals fighting COVID-19 and those suffering from its residual effects. In mid-March the Company launched a new Virtual Volunteer program, an innovative digital platform that connects Wynn employees to a wide range of volunteer opportunities. Employees participated in over 40 virtual volunteer offerings, contributing over 12,000 hours. Monthly in-person events resumed in September to support several frontline nonprofit organizations. Wynn had the highest 2020 participation rate of any Strip resort for blood drives in partnership with Vitalant, employee blood donors impacted 732 lives. Over 5,000 hours of volunteer time was given toward virtual and Good Samaritan volunteerism, continuing to demonstrate Wynn's support of the community through action.

