



## COMMUNITY FEATURE

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### **2014 VOLUNTEER AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED**

The Wake County Board of Commissioners recognized outstanding volunteers with an award and recognition ceremony during its regularly scheduled meeting today, **Monday, November 3, 2014.**

The Board honored Maddie Sargent, Keishaun Hines, Doris Reyes, Ignacio Flecha, Ivy Iverson and Mary (Shannon) Johnstone with the Commissioners' Awards for Volunteer Service in Wake County. Dr. Ben Ferdon and Dr. Robert Majors were awarded the Larry B. Zieverink Volunteer of the Year Award. Mike Legeros and Lee Wilson received the County Government Volunteer of the Year award.

"Wake County is honored to recognize these community members for their volunteer time and efforts," said Commissioner Joe Bryan, chair of the Volunteer Award and Recognition Committee. "It is because of their passion and involvement in the community that Wake County is able to provide a high level of service to the public. These individuals have gone above and beyond and are truly outstanding Wake County residents. The Board of Commissioners feels very fortunate to be a part of a county that has so many passionate volunteers who are improving our Wake citizens' quality of life."

#### **Dr. Ben Ferdon and Dr. Robert Majors**

Dr. Ferdon and Dr. Majors are volunteers at Urban Ministries of Wake County's Open Door Clinic. As volunteer physicians they provide medical care to uninsured patients, prescribe treatment, perform minor procedures and give interdisciplinary care. In addition, Dr. Ferdon and Dr. Majors have harvested and donated over 4,000 pounds of food for low-income clients in Urban Ministries' Food Pantry. They have provided volunteer clinic service for six hours a month for more than 10 years as well as more than two years as agricultural producers.

#### **Mike Legeros and Lee Wilson**

As volunteer photographers with Wake County EMS, Michael and Lee have been volunteering for five hours a month for the past eight years. They respond to emergency scenes in Wake County regardless of the weather and take thousands of pictures of emergency responders and other subjects in the area. Photos include emergency scenes, academy graduations, banquets, awards ceremonies and other events.

#### **Maddie Sargent and Keishaun Hines**

Maddie and Keishaun have been volunteers at the North Carolina chapter of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society since 2013. They are both leukemia survivors. In just 10 weeks Maddie raised \$12,000 for the society. She was named the “2014 Girl of the Year” spokesperson. Keishaun was named the “2014 Boy of the Year” spokesperson. Keishaun has spoken and assisted at numerous fundraising events, helping to raise over \$600,000 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of North Carolina.

### **Doris Reyes and Ignacio Flecha**

This father-daughter team has been volunteering their service to the Cary Creative Center for 24 hours every week for the last year. The Cary Creative Center provides artistic materials and educational programs to promote the reuse of discarded materials. The pair helps keep waste out of local landfills. Ignacio keeps the warehouse in order. Doris has reorganized the retail space and gone above and beyond her role as Retail Team Leader, sometimes staying as late as 2 a.m. Together they have donated over one thousand hours of their time and increased revenue by 17 percent.

### **Ivy Iverson**

Ivy has worked the welcome desk at Marbles Kids Museum four hours a day, twice a week, for 12 years. He greets and directs guests and oversees the staff hospitality room for the Imagination Ball. In addition, Ivy serves food at events such as Grandparents Day and Buckaroo Breakfast. He gives a warm welcome “Hello” to all Marbles visitors. His friendliness and compassion serves as an important part of the Marbles Kids Museum experience.

### **Mary (Shannon) Johnstone**

Shannon has been volunteering her photography skills to the Wake County Animal Center five to ten hours a week for the past four and a half years. Shannon takes pictures of “Landfill Dogs.” These are dogs that unless adopted will be euthanized. She brings her photography students with her and has helped the Animal Center attract more volunteers. Shannon’s story was featured on the ABC Nightly News with Dianne Sawyer as a part of the “American Strong” series. She has won a City-County Communications and Marketing Association award and a National Association of County Information Officers award.

Each year the Board recognizes several outstanding volunteers in coordination with state-level volunteer awards. Volunteers are nominated by county government groups, as well as outside agencies, including non-profits and community partners. A selection committee then evaluates the nominations based on the volunteer efforts, accomplishments and impact in the community.

For more information on volunteer opportunities in Wake County, go to [wakegov.com/volunteer](http://wakegov.com/volunteer).

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