

CORNING

Excellence in Volunteerism 2023 Employee Award Winners

and chosen non-profit organizations for \$1,000 grants

The Excellence in Volunteerism award recognizes employees' contributions and rewards the causes they care about most. Active part-time and full-time U.S. Corning employees may nominate another employee for the award. Recipients will receive a \$1,000 grant to donate to the eligible nonprofit organization of their choice.

Kevin Adriance, Gorilla Glass, Corning, NY

Nominated by Anastasia Castilone, Staff Sector, Corning, NY

Grant recipient: Corning Painted Post Little League

Kevin Adriance shows his commitment to youth through the sport of baseball as a coach with Corning Painted Post Little League. Kevin works with youth to teach them the sport of baseball on the field and in the dugout. In the dugout, he organizes players into their positions, gets the batting line up set, and motivates the team. When in the field, he acts as a base coach telling players when to lead off, stay, steal. "Kevin actively volunteers during games in multiple areas and helps out behind the counter at the concession stand," writes Anastasia Castilone. "Kevin's dedication is unwavering and a true asset to the league."

Michael Barrett, Advanced Optics, Canton, NY

Nominated by Mandie Mousaw, Advanced Optics, Canton, NY

Grant recipient: Canton Minor Hockey

Michael Barrett spends his free time as an assistant coach with the St. Lawrence Steel Youth Hockey program. As a coach, Mike leads ice conditioning and skill training during the hockey season. These 45–60-minute training sessions, designed by Mike, are geared toward gaining strength and agility. Every player on the team understands that positive improvement requires effort, and that each player gets back what they put in. "Mike is committed to providing players the opportunity to have fun on and off the ice while teaching them valuable life lessons," writes Mandie Mousaw. "He continually enforces the importance of commitment, self-discipline, and sportsmanship among athletes."

Annette Baumgartner, Advanced Optics, Keene, NH

Nominated by Mark Haefner, Advanced Optics, Keene, NH

Grant recipient: Hundred Nights

Annette Baumgartner spends her time mobilizing volunteers for multiple non-profit organizations, including The Community Kitchen, Monadnock Crisis and Prevention Center, American Red Cross, and Cedarcrest Center for Children with Disabilities. She helps spread the word about donating blood with the American Red Cross and sends communications for the Monadnock Crisis & Prevention Center spring gala fundraiser. At Cedarcrest she collects and delivers signed Valentine's Day cards for residents. "Annette's excitement and drive motivates others to volunteer their time," writes Mark Haefner. "Annette is a joy and pleasure to work with and her dedication to the community is contagious."

Lori Bennett, S&T, Corning, NY

Nominated by Mercedes Bell, S&T, Corning, NY

Grant recipient: Patriot Guard Riders of New York

Lori is passionate about honoring fallen service members, their family members, and their communities with Patriot Guard Riders. Lori and her father joined hundreds of other motorcyclists in rides held by Patriot Guard Riders and would also stand at funerals with flags to honor fallen soldiers and their families. Lori is also a founder of the Corning Childhood Cancer Awareness to help families in the local community. Lori holds a fundraising event, Christmas in July, every year to donate funds to Ronald McDonald House in Rochester, NY. "Volunteerism isn't just an activity for Lori, it's a heartfelt mission to create a better world one gesture at a time," writes Mercedes Bell.

Karen Bowie, Gorilla Glass, Harrodsburg, KY

Nominated by Shawn Markham, Gorilla Glass, Harrodsburg, KY

Grant recipient: Girl Scouts of Kentucky's Wilderness Road Council

Karen Bowie dedicates her time as president elect and Board Development Chair to the Girl Scouts of Kentucky's Wilderness Road. Girl Scouts and their programming is important to Karen because it engages young women in STEAM education in a safe and inclusive environment with an interest in expanding programming in these areas. "Karen supports the mission of the Girl Scouts through her board service by making connections, preparing for meetings, and organizing events," writes Shawn Markham.

Valerie Christie, Staffs, Corning, NY

Nominated by Kristen Boscarino, Staffs, Corning, NY

Grant recipient: Arbor Housing & Development

Valerie Christie is an active volunteer in the Corning community. In honor of Eric Michaels, a Corning employee that recently passed away, Valerie organized a Meals on Wheels volunteer event in Corning, NY and Charlotte, NC. This activity brought light to Eric's legacy for volunteering at Meals on Wheels through his co-workers. Valerie is also an active volunteer at a local domestic violence shelter and at transitional housing locations. Recently, she spent time at the shelter painting rooms to create a more inviting space for residents. "Valerie embodies the spirit of volunteerism through her unwavering dedication, enthusiasm, and positive attitude," writes Kristen Boscarino.

Nadia Cutler, Advanced Optics, Canton, NY

Nominated by Mark Scott, Advanced Optics, Canton, NY

Grant recipient: St. Lawrence North Country Community Foundation

Nadia Cutler is a longtime volunteer with the St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce and recently concluded her term as President. During her tenure, Nadia chaired meetings and actively participated in numerous events which benefited local businesses and the entire community. Nadia engages with craft and artisan shows in addition to creating opportunities for small and disadvantaged businesses. "Nadia is a committed volunteer," writes Mark Scott. "During her tenure as board president she led the Chamber of Commerce through a reorganization of the staff and the hiring of a new director."

George Dale, Gorilla Glass, Corning, NY

Nominated by Jessica Roche, Environmental Technologies, Corning, NY

Grant recipient: Children's Craniofacial Association

The Children's Craniofacial Association is an organization that George Dale is loyal to supporting. As a board of directors member for eighteen years, he has helped set the strategic direction of the organization. During his long tenure, George has held a variety of leadership positions, including Secretary, Vice Chair, and Chairman. During those roles he assisted with the annual audit, development, programs, governance, and finance committees. For the past ten years George has organized a local charity golf tournament to raise funds for Children's Craniofacial Association. "George is a true volunteer leader," writes Jessica Roche. "His passion for the Children's Craniofacial Association inspires and motivates others to act and give back to the organization to empower and give hope to individuals and families affected by facial differences. His dedication is admired and cherished by the entire CCA family."

Todd Dameron, Optical Communications, Remote

Nominated by Nicole Fagan, Optical Communications, Charlotte, NC

Grant recipient: Inter-Faith Food Shuttle

Helping to make a better life for youth with difficult home lives drives Todd Dameron. Twice a week Todd volunteers with a program for students that come from split homes, don't live with their parents, or have little direction at home and need a positive role model. Todd shows boys how to tie a tie and the students wear them on Tie Tuesdays. He also spends time helping them study and plays sports with them in the school gym. In addition, he is an assistant baseball coach at East Wake High School focused on providing good sportsmanship and character building. "Todd is a positive influence on the lives of countless individuals in the community through his volunteerism with multiple organizations," writes Nicole Fagan.

Gregory Davis, Optical Communications, Wilmington, NC

Nominated by Kenneth Kelmer, Optical Communications, Wilmington, NC

Grant recipient: Port City Robotics

Greg Davis has been a committed volunteer with FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science Technology) Robotics for over ten years. Greg and his wife host a FIRST Lego League team in their living room throughout the fall season for middle school students. During the winter, Greg serves as programming mentor for the Wired Wizards, a FIRST Robotics Competition team. He teaches students Java programming which gets the robot running and competing. In the spring, Greg supports FIRST Robotics competitions by traveling to competition sites and assisting with set up and running of the events. "Greg is a dedicated volunteer in a variety of roles to support STEM education through robotics," writes Ken Kelmer.

Jeff Domey, S&T, Corning, NY

Nominated by Ryan Sutton, S&T, Corning, NY

Grant recipient: Notre Dame High School

As an enthusiastic supporter of STEM education, Jeff Domey has been an asset to Notre Dame High Schools' FIRST Robotics Team for over ten years. As a mentor, Jeff finds ways for students to get involved in engineering, technology, and science while learning communication, leadership, and social skills. With Jeff's assistance, students learn how to build and code a robot in addition to learning how to overcome challenges and work as a team. "Jeff interacts with robotics students through multiple STEAM fields," writes Ryan Sutton. "He engages students and is a crucial mentor to the team."

Allison Draper, S&T, Corning, NY

Nominated by Kyle Elston, Life Sciences, Corning, NY

Grant recipient: Finger Lakes Land Trust

Allison Draper spends countless hours participating in volunteer activities across the region in the sustainability and nature conservation space. Allison regularly volunteers with Finger Lakes Land Trust to assist with trail maintenance and invasive species removal. This conservation effort creates habitat-protected areas to safeguard pockets of biodiversity and offer a human connection with nature. She also volunteers at Denison Park for beautification efforts and supports Tanglewood Nature Center by volunteering for their Run for the Hills fundraising event. Allison was also part of organizing the Corning Community Garden bed re-build with Corning Rotary, participates in volunteer events with Happy Compromise Farm + Sanctuary, and organized a professional clothing drive with CPN for local school clothing closets. "Allison is a tireless advocate for community and education," writes Kyle Elston.

Christopher Durham, Gorilla Glass, Harrodsburg, KY

Nominated by Lori Burns, Gorilla Glass, Harrodsburg, KY

Grant recipient: Kentucky 4-H Foundation

Christopher Durham volunteers his time with St. Domonic School in Springfield, KY. Chris serves as a member of the grounds and maintenance crew to ensure the area is at its best for students. He also volunteers at the entry and exit gate at sporting events to check tickets. In addition, Chris is involved with 4-H to provide positive youth development, mentorship, and education through programming. "Chris cares about the students at St. Dominic School," writes Lori Burns. "Chris supports the school in a number of ways and is essential to keeping the school grounds in good order for the kids."

Vincent Ferretti, Optical Communications, Charlotte, NC

Nominated by Steven Colby, Optical Communications, Charlotte, NC

Grant recipient: Newton Depot Authority

As the Newton Depot Authority's Board President and frequent volunteer, Vince Ferretti provides leadership to elevate the depot museum. Through grant writing and fundraising, Vince has helped lead the effort to reduce the museum's debt and keep the museum financially stable throughout COVID-19. Vince oversees the annual spring train show fundraiser and under his leadership, it has been extremely successful. He has also initiated collaborations with other non-profit organizations to raise awareness of the museum and its mission. "The museum is growing and gaining national recognition due to Vince's tireless efforts," writes Steven Colby. "His passion for the museum's mission and the community it serves make him an invaluable asset."

Patrick Gill, S&T, Corning, NY

Nominated by Lori Ann Congdon, S&T, Corning, NY

Grant recipient: Catholic Charities of Chemung & Schuyler Counties

For Pat Gill, supporting the American Red Cross and their work with blood drives is a priority. As part of the Sullivan Park blood drive team, he promotes the monthly on site blood drives. Pat has also been a member of St. Mary's of the Lake Catholic Church for over twenty years and serves as a trustee on the finance council. Further, Pat has been involved with the Schuyler Habitat for Humanity for many years and helps with a build a couple of times a year. "The Sullivan Park Team feels Pat's passion and a caring attitude as he works with the team to develop relationships, document, and streamline processes," writes Lori Ann Congdon. "He enables all members of the team, donors, volunteers, and the Red Cross workers to feel valued."

Kaitlyn Gloe, Optical Communications, Wilmington, NC

Nominated by Susan Barbee, Optical Communications, Wilmington, NC

Grant recipient: Cape Fear Museum Associates

Kaitlyn Gloe is engaged with Cape Fear Museum, the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce, and Communities in Schools. She is also a board member on the Associates Board of the Cape Fear Museum which is the regional science and history museum. On this board she is actively involved in community engagement with STEM activities as well as the development aspects of the museum. Katie is also involved with Communities in Schools to help students who are struggling with academics to develop a love of science. "Katie is involved with multiple local organizations and is committed to understanding and supporting the broader community where she lives and works," writes Susan Barbee.

Jesse Groover, S&T, Corning, NY

Nominated by Kaitlin Barkley, S&T, Hickory, NC

Grant recipient: Catawba County Schools

Since relocating a year ago, Jesse Groover has been an advocate for youth in STEM by engaging with FIRST Robotics. Jesse has worked to recruit Corning employees to the team, Mechanical Minds, doubling the number of mentors and tripling the number of student participants. In addition to mentor recruitment, Jesse instructs students on how to build a robot, and teaches 3D-modeling. The technical knowledge Jesse brings has taken the team from relying on 'Everybot' designs to creating their own robots. "Through teaching CAD and design skills, Jesse is helping create the next generation of engineers," writes Kaitlin Barkley. "His support has increased the engagement of the students and helped them see what is possible through pursuing education in STEM."

Hans Hahnenstein, Gorilla Glass, Harrodsburg, KY

Nominated by Gregory Kovach, Gorilla Glass, Harrodsburg, KY

Grant recipient: God's Pantry Food Bank

Hans Hahnenstein cares about a variety of local non-profit organizations and shows his support by promoting volunteerism within the Harrodsburg plant. With the American Red Cross, Hans helps organize blood drives and donates blood and platelets. During his personal time, Hans helps with Porter Memorial Baptist Church's food pantry. At the pantry Hans helps pack boxes, stock shelves, and assists with food distribution. A majority of the food that the church's pantry receives is distributed to them from God's Pantry Food Bank. "Hans unselfishly donates his time to making the community a better place," writes Gregory Kovach.

Lee Hairston, Optical Communications, Winston-Salem, NC

Nominated by Sherry Hines, Optical Communications, Winston-Salem, NC

Grant recipient: Crossnore Communities for Children

Lee Hairston is an enthusiastic volunteer for Crossnore Communities for Children. For the past three years, Lee and his wife Michella have donated hygiene items like toothpaste and deodorant as well as luggage for children who have experienced abuse or trauma. Lee also volunteers with MeckTech once a month to hand out free laptops to those less fortunate in Mecklenburg County, NC. "Lee takes giving back to the community seriously and believes in being an active participant in trying to make things better," writes Sherry Hines.

Lauren Harris, Advanced Optics, Fairport, NY

Nominated by Katherine Ballman, Gorilla Glass, Corning, NY

Grant recipient: Villa of Hope

Lauren Harris is a loyal volunteer with the local Boys and Girls Club chapter in Rochester, NY. Lauren holds clothing drives to collect professional clothing for club members who are starting interviews for jobs and college. She also holds food drives for Thanksgiving and seeks out additional volunteer opportunities to support the organization's programming. Lauren's devotion to youth in the greater Rochester area is inspirational," writes Katherine Ballman. "In addition to Lauren's personal volunteerism she also curates volunteer opportunities for the CWPG's Fairport chapter to match their values and create interesting ways for them to engage with local non-profit organizations."

Cynthia Hill, Gorilla Glass, Corning, NY

Nominated by Claire Warren Ginnan, Gorilla Glass Corning, NY

Grant recipient: Family Service Society

Cynthia Hill volunteers with multiple organizations in the community. Cynthia's volunteerism ranges from helping decorate bags and deliver meals to those in need with Corning Meals on Wheels, to sorting food and preparing backpack meals for children at the Food Bank of the Southern Tier. In addition to supporting hunger awareness in the community, she led a Habitat for Humanity project to raise walls on a new build with colleagues. Economic Opportunity Program (EOP) is another organization supported by Cynthia. During EOP's Christmas magic event she helped wrap and label numerous donated gifts for children. She also helped distribute gifts to children, books, and food baskets to families. "Cynthia demonstrates a spirit of giving and care to her community," writes Claire Warren Ginnan.

Corinne Isaac, S&T, Corning, NY

Nominated by Ryan Rooney, S&T, Corning, NY

Grant recipient: Boy Scouts Five Rivers Council

Making a difference for youth of America is what drives Corinne Isaac. Corinne volunteers every Tuesday evening with a local Boy Scouts troop. In 2019 she joined the troop as a female adult lead on a 50-mile, high-adventure trek backpacking through the White Mountains in New Hampshire. After this rewarding experience, Corinne wanted to become involved with scouts on a regular basis and became an Assistant Scout Master and is now the Scott Master. "The impact Corinne provides her community, especially within the youth population, is vast," writes Ryan Rooney.

Michael Jones, Optical Communications, Winston-Salem, NC

Nominated by Ophelia Moore, Optical Communications, Winston-Salem, NC

Grant recipient: Boy Scouts of America Old Hickory Council

Michael (Mike) Jones is a devoted troop leader with the Boy Scouts of America, The Old Hickory Council. Mike was a boy scout in his youth and has continued to work with that organization. Many of the boys in the troop are from underprivileged families and often do not have money to go on camping trips or other outings. Mike has lead fundraising activities within the troop to ensure that all scouts are able to fully participate in Boy Scout programming. "Mike enjoys working with scouts and continues to mentor them as they progress through the scouting program," writes Ophelia Moore.

George Kaufman, S&T, Corning, NY

Nominated by Vitor Schneider, S&T, Corning, NY

Grant recipient: Corning Painted Post Band Boosters

George Kaufman teaches students about STEM through hands-on demonstrations. George was a guest presenter at Elmira High School to demonstrate the chemistry behind ion-exchanged glass. At the Alternative School for Math and Science (ASMS), he has given multiple classroom demonstrations to teach chemical kinetics and color change to students. In addition to science focused activities, he also supports music in schools. George spends countless hours as a member of the Corning-Painted Post High School Band Boosters, including serving as Vice President. He regularly works to organize the Crystal City Competition, Bandtoberfest, and the Winter Guard International Regional Competition. "George makes learning fun by sharing his love of science with local students, he also supports music and the arts," writes Vitor Schneider. "From chaperoning trips, to fundraising, to board membership, George does it all."

George Kellogg, Advanced Optics, Corning, NY

Nominated by: Xuegong Deng, Advanced Optics, Corning, NY

Grant recipient: Catholic Charities of Chemung & Schuyler Counties

George Kellogg is an enthusiastic supporter of the United Way of the Southern Tier (UWST) and has helped lead special events and volunteer activities. In the past two years he has helped build a raised garden bed at an Arbor House complex, planted and landscaped at Catholic Charities in Elmira, and helped paint at the Community Kitchen. Recently, George helped clean the inside and outside of Corning Comfort Care, also known as Bampa's House, for United Way's Day of Action. As the Advanced Optics headquarters location United Way campaign captain, he has focused on utilizing team building events like walk/bikeathons, and Soak'em in Seneca activities to drive fundraising participation. "George works tirelessly and with contagious energy to lead and influence fundraising and volunteer events," writes Xuegong Deng.

Kenneth Kelmer, Optical Communications, Wilmington, NC

Nominated by Greg Davis, Optical Communications, Wilmington, NC

Grant recipient: Port City Robotics

Ken Kelmer is a devoted volunteer with Port City Robotics team Wired Wizards. As a mentor, he teaches high school-aged students the fundamentals of mechanical design, CAD, fabrication, problems solving, and other STEM principles. Ken takes these skills and applies them to designing, building, programming, and testing robots for competition. "Ken's vibrant personality inspires the students and other mentors," writes Greg Davis. "Ken uses his work knowledge and experience to teach the next generation."

Matt Kempton, S&T, Corning, NY

Nominated by Christina Laskowski, S&T, Corning, NY

Grant recipient: STELA

Matt Kempton is a force in the community who lends his time and talents to Boy Scouts of America, Tanglewood Nature Center, and leading STEM initiatives for youth. Recently, Matt spearheaded a popular STEM table at the EOP's Juneteenth celebration. The table involved a well-engineered rocket-launching activity to teach physics and aeronautics through hands-on rocket building and launching. He also created a new computer aided (CAD) traveling 3D printing project to excite local students about opportunities in CAD, 3D printing, and mechanical design. "Matt Kempton is a STEM "force multiplier" whose gifted mind, huge network, varied interests, and talent for STEM educational to local youth," writes Christina Laskowski. "Matt's volunteering consistently brings new STEM technology into the world and helps students consider STEM careers."

Michelle Mai, Optical Communications, Central California, CA

Nominated by: Aditya Samant, Optical Communications, Central California, CA

Grant recipient: Fremont Unified School District

Michelle Mai is an active volunteer for the Month of Service in the Silicon Valley. Michelle researches and connects with non-profit organizations to source volunteer projects for colleagues. This year's Month of Service non-profit organizations were Research Area for Training (RAFT), Hunger at Home, Sourcewise, and Second Harvest of Silicon Valley. Through Michelle's recruitment, employees prepared and packaged STEAM project kits for youth, helped prepare meals for the homeless, wrote greeting cards for the elderly, and completed a sort and pack food project for the less privileged. "Michelle is an amazing person to work with who brings volunteerism ideas to the team," writes Aditya Samant.

Shawn Markham, Gorilla Glass, Harrodsburg, KY

Nominated by: Lonnie Coffman, Gorilla Glass, Harrodsburg, KY

Grant recipient: Mercer Transformation

Shawn Markham is a positive force in the community. She serves on several boards, including the local library, Corning Museum of Glass, and Ephraim McDowell Hospital. As a supporter of literacy, she volunteers with her daughter in the Mercer Transformation's program that helps children with reading. For Earth Day Shawn recruited twenty colleagues to volunteer, doubling the number of participants from the previous year. "Shawn stands out as keeping the Harrodsburg plant focused on community support," writes Lonnie Coffman. "She understands the importance of volunteer work and is committed to the community."

Justin Marshall, Gorilla Glass, Harrodsburg, KY

Nominated by: Kevin Faulkner, Gorilla Glass, Harrodsburg, KY

Grant recipient: Jessamine County Youth Baseball

Justin Marshall cares about providing opportunities for youth. He is a head coach for Jessamine County baseball and football, and an assistant basketball coach. Justin started out coaching the 4-5 year old age group and now coaches those ages 9-10. In addition to coaching, Justin is a board member of the Jessamine County Youth Baseball organization and holds the position of Safety and Security. He recently spearheaded the AED (Automatic External Defibrillator) program to keep athletes safe. The program includes recruiting and training volunteers in the use of an AED and first aid. "Justin is passionate about the youth in the community," writes Kevin Faulkner. "He volunteers his time coaching two different sports and as a mentor for preteen and teenage boys without a father figure in their lives."

Xiangdong Mi, S&T, Corning, NY

Nominated by: Zhibing Zhan, Advanced Optics, Fairport, NY

Grant recipient: Chinese School of Rochester

Xiang-Dong Mi is a leading volunteer at the non-profit Chinese School of Rochester (CSR). The CSR serves around 150 students in grades kindergarten to 12 and adults of all cultural background in the Greater Rochester community. He has served as a member of the board from 2017-2020, Vice President from 2018-2022, and Principal from 2022 to present. In addition to board service, Xiang-Dong oversees and participates in the daily operations of the school and outreach programs for art, music, and dance. "Under Xiang-Dong's leadership, the Chinese School of Rochester has partnered with the local police department to address school safety concerns," writes Zhibing Zhan. "The school has grown under his leadership to include members of diverse backgrounds and expertise and recently received a grant from New York State Art Council and a Special Mayoral Recognition from the City of Rochester."

Edison Moreira, S&T, Corning, NY

Nominated by: Randall Youngman, S&T, Corning, NY

Grant recipient: Horseheads Marching Band Boosters

Edison has been deeply committed to supporting the Horseheads Blue Raiders Marching Ensemble for the past five years. He works tirelessly throughout the season to design, assemble, transport, and maintain props and equipment for each field show. Edison also designs and constructs elaborate props for use in the shows. "Parent volunteers like Edison are invaluable in the success of the Horseheads Marching Band Boosters," writes Randall Youngman. "His efforts contribute to the musical education of students and the musical vibrancy of all the communities where the band performs."

Hirofumi Motegi, Environmental Technologies, Corning, NY

Nominated by: Christina Steffanus, Staffs, Corning, NY

Grant recipient: Sister Cities Associations of Corning New York

Hirofumi (Hiro) Motegi plays an integral part of cultural exchange programs in the Corning-Elmira area. Through his volunteerism on the board of Corning Sister Cities Association of Corning, NY and Horseheads Sister Cities Association, Hiro has enabled students in the region the opportunity to learn about Japanese culture and take trips abroad to Japan. He has also organized a variety of educational classes, including language classes, calligraphy demonstrations, green tea demonstrations, and cultural etiquette classes to share his background with the community. "Hiro, who studied abroad himself as a high school and college student, truly understands the value of diversity in our community and lives it every day," writes Christina Steffanus.

Maya Norvel, Optical Communications, Charlotte, NC

Nominated by: Melissa Schmidt, Optical Communications, Charlotte, NC

Grant recipient: Victory Gardens International

Maya Norvel is influential in the community by regularly volunteering with a variety of organizations. In the Charlotte Mecklenburg School district Maya reads to elementary school children, helps distribute college packets to seniors, and works in the school STEM lab. She is also involved with school district's digital inclusion group where she disburses laptops to students. In addition, Maya donates her farm's produce to Victory Gardens International for the mobile food market and she helps educate others on growing food and urban gardening. "Maya is always eager to reach out to organizations to see how she can partner with them to fundraise or help with STEM programming," writes Melissa Schmidt. "She is also a connector that helps non-profit organizations interact with each other for their mutual benefit."

Kimberly Oxford, Optical Communications, Concord, NC

Nominated by: Jon Greveling, Optical Communications, Concord, NC

Grant recipient: Victory Junction

Kimberly Oxford exemplifies excellence in volunteerism as part of the outreach team at Concord. She consistently volunteers with Meals on Wheels during her lunch break to deliver meals to those in need. She also reads to children in day care facilities. Kimberly is a key person to cascade messaging as well as organizing fundraisers or community outreach events at the Concord plant. “Kimberly always has a wonderful attitude and brightens the day of those she works with,” writes Jon Greveling. “She makes a positive impact in the community.”

Kevin Parker, Optical Communications, Wilmington, NC

Nominated by Wendy Crumpton, Optical Communications, Wilmington, NC

Grant recipient: Honor Flight of the Cape Fear Area

Kevin Parker helped restart and is on the board for the new Honor Flight of the Cape Fear Area. The Honor Flight honors veterans of the World II, Korean, and Vietnam War eras. The organization has completed two successful flights to Washington D.C. and will continue to fly veterans to D.C. in an all-expenses-paid trip to visit the war memorials. Kevin has also been a United Way of the Cape Fear Area board member since 2019. At work, Kevin often organizes team building events, giving colleagues the opportunity to volunteer at local food banks. “Kevin Parker is a remarkable individual driven by a compassionate spirit,” writes Wendy Crumpton.

Matthew Ricci, Environmental Technologies, Corning, NY

Nominated by: Chad Sustello, S&T Corning, NY

Grant recipient: Soaring Capital Soccer Club

Matthew Ricci gives endlessly to the local youth soccer community. As a former soccer player Matt, continues to share his love of the sport with Soaring Capital Soccer Club. As a coach, Matt schedules practices and games in addition to leading drills and supporting the team during games. Matt also serves on the board and is currently the secretary. “Matt invests in his coaching skills and encourages youth members that have aged out to return to coaching while providing clinics and lessons to enhance all coaches,” writes Chad Sustello.

Jessica Roche, Environmental Technologies, Corning, NY

Nominated by: George Dale, Gorilla Glass, Corning, NY

Grant recipient: Appalachian Mountain Club

Jessica Roche is a longtime supporter of the March of Dimes (MoD). Since 2003, she has fundraised for the annual March for Babies event. Jessica has developed a loyal donor base by establishing a compelling cause for support for MOD. She also establishes rapport with donors through frequent, planned communications, tracking metrics, history of donations, thanking donors, and holding an annual raffle for donors to show appreciation for their support. Because of her efforts, the March of Dimes has been the recipient of over \$120,000 in donations in the last 20 years. “Jessica’s support and dedication to March of Dimes has led to a remarkable increase in fundraising,” writes George Dale.

Micah Shapiro, Optical Communications, Charlotte, NC

Nominated by: Vickie Purnell, Optical Communications, Charlotte, NC

Grant recipient: Fostering Faith Foundation

Micah Shapiro partners with Fostering Faith Foundation to provide aid and resources for children in foster care. Fostering Faith Foundation grants the Christmas Wishes of children in the foster care system while providing needed aid, resources, and community outreach to foster children, foster families, and group homes. Micah devotes countless hours to making the foster care system in North Carolina a better place for each child entering foster care. ““Micah constantly works to improve the lives of our youth in foster care through partnering and volunteering with the Fostering Faith Foundation,” writes Vickie Purnell.

Jeff Shields, Optical Communications, Austin, TX

Nominated by Derek Corpening, Optical Communications, Charlotte, NC

Grant recipient: Brady’s K9 Fund

Jeff Shields is a founding board member of Brady’s K9 Fund which provides ballistic vests for police, military, and search and rescue dogs. In addition to his board service, Jeff also leads fundraising events to purchase ballistic vests for working dogs. Annually, Jeff sponsors a dog for the 12 Dogs of Christmas campaign. Once a vest has been purchased, Jeff will personally deliver the vest to the dog and their handler. “Jeff recognizes a need in the community and doesn’t shy away,” writes Derek Corpening. “Once Jeff decides how he can help, he works tirelessly to achieve that goal.”

Quinton Smith-Frank, Staffs, Corning, NY

Nominated by: Cara Groeger, S&T, Corning, NY

Grant recipient: Corning Meals on Wheels

Quinton Smith-Frank cares about ending senior isolation and hunger. Quinton regularly volunteers his time to deliver meals through the Corning Law Department’s Corning Meals on Wheels route. He is delivers meals during the holidays and is the first to volunteer when needed. In addition to delivering meals, he also assists in small tasks like bringing in the mail for those that are house bound and cannot access their mailbox. “Quinten takes the time to engage in conversations with clients and brings care and compassion to all that he does,” writes Cara Groeger. “

Danyell Spalla, Optical Communications, Charlotte, NC

Nominated by: Micah Shapiro, Optical Communications, Charlotte, NC

Grant recipient: Carriage Town Ministries

Danyell Spalla spends her free time helping people with food insecurity through Carriage Town Ministries (CTM). CTM services provides a safe and accepting space to receive a meal, shelter from the elements, and a learning center to help bridge gaps in education and sharpen new skills. CTM also operates Blueline Donuts, which provides low-barrier transitional employment opportunities to those experiencing homelessness. Danyell focuses on helping prepare and distribute meals for the over one hundred people that utilize the service regularly.

Denise Stevens, Life Sciences, Kennebunk, ME

Nominated by Jaime Stevens, Life Sciences, Kennebunk, ME

Grant recipient: Kennebunkport Historical Society

Denise Stevens is immersed in Kennebunkport's history. As a volunteer she is actively involved in supporting the Kennebunkport Historical Society's bi-annual galas, tea parties, craft nights, educational programs, and lectures by planning, decorating, helping prepare food, shopping, cleaning, and other tasks to organize these events. She also presents in a lecture series to share her knowledge of sewing, cooking, and wreathmaking. Currently, Denise is preparing for a lecture about Southern Maine Lighthouses. "Denise is a known resource called upon to maintain the historical society for Kennebunkport locals and the region's many summertime visitors," writes Jaime Stevens.

Ryan Sutton, S&T, Corning, NY

Nominated by: Jeffrey Domey, S&T, Corning, NY

Grant recipient: Notre Dame High School

Ryan Sutton is an enthusiastic supporter of robotics and has been part of the FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) Team 3799 "Electric Fire" since 2012. This program serves students aged 14-18 in learning hands-on engineering skills through design, fabrication, wiring, programming, driving, tuning, strategizing, and competition of a 120 lb. mobile custom-built robot. The students also learn how to address engineering challenges which differ every year. During the program Ryan guides students to learn technical skills as well as the basics of working on an engineering team, project management, and technical presentation skills. "Ryan is known for his deep knowledge of mechanical robot design and development of a "Super Pit" tuned for rapid-fire competition repair," writes Jeffrey Domey. "Ryan is a key mentor who routinely spends close to 200 hours per year to support the next generation of technical leaders."

Brian Tebin, Staffs, Corning, NY

Nominated by: Kristine Dale, Staffs, Corning, NY

Grant recipient: Tanglewood Nature Center and Museum

Brian Tebin has been a volunteer for the United Way of the Southern Tier's golf tournament fundraiser for over ten years. Brian is a key member of the planning committee and ensures flawless execution of the event. He tirelessly reaches out to companies to secure sponsorships and participants, works closely with the Corning Country Club to ensure tournament logistics are in place, and ensures all golfers have a great experience at the event. "Every year Brian comes up with fresh ideas to raise the bar for fundraising," said Kristine Dale. "It is because of Brian that this tournament is successful and continues to be the largest fundraiser for United Way of the Southern Tier."

Vinalia Tjong, S&T, Corning, NY

Nominated by: Latha Pagadala, Staffs, Corning, NY

Grant recipient: Corning Painted Post School District

Vinalia (Vina) Tjong is the fearless leader advocating for FIRST Lego League (FLL- Challenge) at Erwin Valley. In partnership with STELA, she has started and run two full FLL-Challenge robotics teams impacting a dozen students. She has also been an inspiration for the creation of two additional teams for young students at Erwin Valley Elementary. "Under Vina's leadership, this fledgling group, completely new to robotics, has learned engineering design, coding, strategy, and teamwork," said Latha Pagadala.

Jeff Weirback, S&T, Corning, NY

Nominated by: Thomas Zajicek, S&T, Corning, NY

Grant recipient: Seven Generations of Stewards

Jeff Weirback was dedicated to the Falling Leaves Festival and was a founding member. Throughout the years the festival has reached thousands of people with a cultural education focus. In addition to being a founding member, Jeff handled vendor placement, set up, cleanup, and worked the Native Nations Festival sales table selling candy, water, and shirts. Jeff's contribution to the festival and other Native American educational events are vast. He contributed to the Garden of Fire, the Corning Incorporated Mega Picnic, several Day of Caring events at Watson Homestead, and educational programs. "I know that Jeff would be honored to receive the Excellence in Volunteerism Award as an acknowledgment of his dedication and passion," writes Thomas Zajicek. "This year the festival will be dedicated to Jeff and his memory with an honor board that will include his picture. Members will be able to write down a memory about him in addition to allowing guests to honor a friend, family member, or pet; which is something Jeff would have loved."

Tim White, Advanced Optics, Canton, NY

Nominated by Kevin Logan, Advanced Optics, Canton, NY

Grant recipient: Edwards-Knox Center School District

Tim White has consistently volunteered his time for youth sports. He coordinates the youth basketball and baseball program in his area and coaches his son's team in those sports as well. He coordinates fundraising opportunities to help defray costs for jerseys, gym fees, and other items. This removes barriers to playing sports and gives youth the opportunity to play sports and benefit from being part of a team. "Tim's calm demeanor and positive attitude make him a great coach for youth," writes Kevin Logan.

Jiahau (Bratt) Yan, S&T, Corning, NY

Nominated by Hannah Smith, S&T, Corning, NY

Grant recipient: Steuben County Habitat for Humanity

As the volunteerism chair of the employee resource group Ethnically Diverse Group of Employees (EDGE), Jiahau (Bratt) Yan, promotes, organizes, and executes a variety of projects. Recently, Bratt organized a panel discussion for Corning employees to talk with students at Corning Community College about diversity and navigating careers after college. Bratt also manages and organizes EDGE's efforts for United Way of the Southern Tier's Tour de Keuka cycling event. "Bratt works hard to spread awareness of Tour de Kuka by organizing volunteer sign-ups at the Sullivan Park campus, scheduling individuals at various locations around Keuka Lake for support, and makes sure the volunteers for all events submit Dollars for Doers Program hours," writes Hannah Smith.

Liyang Zhang, S&T, Corning, NY

Nominated by Xilin Zhang, Staffs, Corning, NY

Grant recipient: Corning Chinese School

Liyang Zhang spends her time volunteering as President of the Corning Chinese School. Under her leadership, Liyang transitioned the school to a non-profit organization and recruited members in the educational and non-profit field to serve on the school's board. She also organizes the Corning Sparklers, a group of twenty youth that perform at various local and regional events. The team embraces cultural diversity and provides a performance opportunity. "Liyang demonstrates an unwavering commitment to serving her community and making a positive impact on the lives of those around her," writes Xilin Zhang.