

Information about the Governor's Volunteer Service Award:

The Governor's Volunteer Service Award honors the true spirit of volunteerism by recognizing individuals, groups and businesses that make a significant contribution to their community through volunteer service. Any person, group, or entity from the public, non-profit and private sector may be nominated for an award to their county award coordinator. County award coordinators submit their top 10 volunteer nominations per county. There are categories for the type of nominee (senior, youth, faith-based, family, group, business, etc.). Additional categories are based upon the area of service (animal, environmental, disaster, youth, preservation, etc.). County recommendations are reviewed by the State Commission and awards are given out in the counties.

United Way of Gaston County coordinates our county efforts, advertises, collects applications, and makes recommendations to the State of North Carolina. For 2022, we are pleased that Gaston County has 3 recipients of this award, who have continued faithful service to organizations during the pandemic over the last 2 years.

2022 Governor's Volunteer Awards

Eleanor Crank

Receiving a Governor's Volunteer Service Award is Eleanor Crank, 85-years young and a long-time resident of South Gastonia. Eleanor was nominated for her service to the American Red Cross by Amelia Lenke, Program Manager for American Red Cross Disaster Services. The pandemic never kept her down when the offices were quiet at the American Red Cross. She kept things bright by sewing vibrantly colored masks for her community preparing home cooked meals and just stopping by, at a safe distance, sharing a hello from her car, during the pandemic. Eleanor's 16 years of dedicated service qualify her for a Lifetime Achievement Award recognition.

Kay and John Blough

For 15 years Kay and John Blough have been food bank shoppers for Crisis Assistance Ministry, meaning they go weekly to Second Harvest Food Bank to purchase discounted food for CAM. Like so many other organizations, COVID had an immediate impact and continues to have a very significant and direct impact on CAM's volunteer pool. And through the ups and downs and concerns of exposure, Kay and John Blough have remained dedicated logging in 460 and 275 hours respectively for the fiscal year 2020-2021. At a time when it would have been very understandable for them to stay home, they actually increased their time spent here to cover for the lack of other volunteers. Jenny Morgan, Volunteer Coordinator states that any organization would be lucky to have these two individuals as volunteers. but she is so thankful that Kay and John chose CAM.