

## 2020 Governor's Volunteer Awards

### William "Gus" Anthony

For almost 20 years attorney Gus Anthony has been a volunteer with the Gaston County Teen Court, a diversion program that assists young people ages 12-18 who have been charged with a criminal offense. Mr. Anthony was nominated by Program Coordinator, Wendy Whist. This program gives youth the opportunity to be held accountable for their actions but give them the opportunity to have their records cleared. Mr. Anthony has helped this program from its inception in 2001 developing policies and guidelines and has presided over many of the courtroom since that time, offering encouragement to teen defendants. . Teen Court has heard over 1500 cases since the program began

### Monica Canipe

Gaston County's Adult Nutrition Program provides meal services for older adults throughout the county. According to Amanda Dawson, County Adult Nutrition Specialist, Monica Canipe has volunteered for approximately 15 years with the meal site in Cherryville, and her work is much appreciated by the Meals on Wheels clients as well as the site coordinator who uses her feedback to improve the services provided to clients in the area.

### Sarah Cerilli

As a Guardian ad Litem (GAL), Sarah Cerilli volunteers to help meet the needs of children who have been removed from their homes and are in the legal custody of the Department of Social Services, residing in foster or other family care. The GAL volunteers many hours during the month, visiting the children, appearing regularly in court, all to help determine what is in the best interest of the child. Gerald Mack, District Administrator of the program states that Sarah is a role model for other Guardians ad Litem as she carries multiple cases at one time to support the children about which she is passionate.

### Valarie Jefferson

Leah Hedgepath states that "dependable" is one of the best words she can use to describe Valarie Jefferson, Mrs. Val. As a volunteer with Dallas High Shoals Christian Ministry, nothing slows her down. Leah says her kind heart, loving spirit, encouraging words, and hours of work with donations and organization keep the organization running efficiently as they work to meet the needs of those less fortunate in the community. She also gives many hours to help the homeless, reach more people with her kindness that she knows.

### Doris Sellers

Doris Sellers also works with Dallas High Shoals Christian Ministry where she has volunteered for almost 10 years. Doris has helped as the organization has changed and grown, working in many areas of the agency including packing food bags and assisting clients answering questions they may have.