



AREA Community Service Awards – Autumn, 2012

The Retired Employees Association recognizes Exchange Retirees and Associates who volunteer their time and devote other resources, such as personal knowledge and expertise, to help improve the economic, civic and social health of the communities where they live and work. The Community Service Review Committee, Richard Fregoe, Chairman, and members Chuck Poffenbarger, Jerry Cloud and Don Streeter reviewed the nominations and, along with the entire AREA membership, are pleased to recognize these Exchange Retirees and Associates for their commitment to their communities' well-being.



All recipients were provided with a Certificate of Appreciation and a recognition letter signed by the program director and president, AREA. We wish to thank Watt/Spohn Universal, a leading worldwide Exchange Broker, for supporting the Retired Employees Association through their active involvement in the Dallas/Fort Worth and Hampton Roads ALA chapters. Watt/Spohn Universal specializes in representing brand name manufacturers in the Power Zone, Automotive, Hardware, Housewares, Sporting Goods, Stationary and Consumables categories. They have a long history of supporting retiree programs. We invite you to visit them at www.wattspohn.com

COMMUNITY AWARD RECIPIENTS, Autumn, 2012

➤ **Dwellie D Jackson, Exchange Retiree, Augusta Chapter:** Worked 28 years for AAFES. She was hired to work in the Cafeteria making pizzas for delivery. Then moved to the pastry department making donuts, where she got an award for donut making. When the bakery section of the cafeteria shut down, she went to work in the Main Store in the Military Clothing Department as a Sales Associate and followed this department when a separate Military Clothing Sales Store (MCSS) was established. She also was a Union Representative for 19 years while working at the Exchange and enjoyed a great relationship with both the employees and management. After retirement, she and her husband moved from Augusta to Thomson, Georgia where she currently resides. With her 6 children firmly on their way with their own lives, she turned her attention to volunteering.

For the past 10 years, she has been volunteering at Vanderhorst Christian Methodist Episcopal Church helping with Bible School and the refreshments for the children. The children have taught her how to change her approach in talking to them. "They have minds of their own these days and question everything. In order to reach them you have to be honest and truthful."

Dwellie is also the Local Missionary President for her Church. She is most proud of being able to help people during bereavements, encouraging others to study the Bible and helping with the Church's college scholarship fund.

She visits two Personal Care Homes a month distributing Birthday Cards, talking to the residents, listening to their stories and reading the Bible. She enjoys talking with the older residents as they are a living history of Georgia and what stories they tell! They have taught her that listening to another is the greatest gift one can give. It may seem like a "small" thing, but listening validates a person's self esteem, lets them know they have something interesting to say and helps them to relive happier times in their past which always brings a smile to everyone.

Four years ago Dwellie became Chaplin for the group "Key Women of America". Their Mission is to provide scholarships for low income children wanting to go to college. After Volunteering,

her second passion is traveling in the United States and Overseas.

Dwellie is so appreciative of AAFES. "It is a good company! As a single parent with 6 children to look after (my first husband had passed away when they were young), the Managers were always there to support me. There were times when I had to take off work to help my kids, and through their willingness to let me off, I was able to raise my kids and get all of them through college. I am so proud to have worked for such wonderful Managers and for a company which has kept its retirement promises."

➤ **Carol Adams, Retiree:** Carol is being recognized for her volunteerism over the last five years for the work and support she has given to Cooks Children's Hospital in Fort Worth. Besides being a "Rocker" for the infants that are hospitalized, Carol has been making and chairing a group of volunteers for the DFW Stitch A Wish campaign sewing pillow cases for all the children that come thru the doors of Cooks for over seven years, as well as chairing the volunteers and collecting monetary donations and prize donations committee for the David Mayo Scramble in 2007. This past April/May, besides sewing the pillow cases, Carol also chaired and worked on sewing over 200 water bottle covers for the day camp associated with Cooks.

➤ **Colbie Lake, Exchange Associate:** Colbie Lake is a two year member of Search One Rescue Team which is a nonprofit organization that uses specially trained Search and Rescue (SAR) K9s to assist governmental agencies in locating lost and missing persons. The team is in their 28th year serving all of North Central Texas (and beyond). The team consists of 42 members and 27 dogs providing four specific K9 disciplines to include Trailing, Area Search (or Air Scent), Human Remains Detection (HRD) and Disaster. Colbie trains with the team one day every weekend and can be called out on searches at any time, day or night.

➤ **Angeles Francisco, Fort Lee Exchange:** Angeles has provided funds to send 3 Philipians students to universities. La Salle University, Nursing Degree; Lipa City College, Teaching Degree; and Batanggas University, Engineer Degree, allowing them to be able to support themselves in a professional manner. The nurse is doing volunteer nursing duties for now, the teacher is still in school expecting to graduate in March 2013 and the engineer is currently in Saudi Arabia as a computer engineer. Angie has never been recognized from the organizations or the town.

➤ **Maza Wilson, Fort Lee Exchange:** Maza started working with the Hopewell Quarterback League in 1977 thru 2012. She was a Sponsor, a Representative and later she was titled Athletic Director. Serving on the executive board and was very instrumental in getting many youths off the street by signing them up to play football and joining the cheerleaders squad. She went through the community and gathered the youth and signed them up to play football and cheering squad. Throughout her term she signed at least 25 girls for cheering and 40 boys to football. She still supports the HQL where her great granddaughter is a member of the cheering squad.

She also became a sponsor for the youth basketball team where she encouraged two men to become volunteer coaches. She has signed up at least 30 to 40 boys for the teams.

➤ **Mara Cranfill, Fort Lee Exchange:** Mara is an Adoption Stand Volunteer. She helps setup & breakdown adoption stands (set up tables, chairs, crates, water bowls, crate cards, etc.) For the pets that are not adopted at that time, Mara pays them special attention to them to ensure they become adoptable in future. For some of the dogs & cats this is important as this may be their only human contact - so the more she is kind and loving to them, the more adoptable they become.

She help takes strays found in the community, rescues animals from shelters, and accepts pets surrendered by owners who can no longer care for them. She transports all rescues to and from adoptions stands with her own vehicle and time.

Henrico Humane Society is run entirely by volunteers and has no paid staff. They do not have a shelter and instead keep most of the animals in foster homes until permanent, loving homes can be found for them. Mara displays a strong commitment to the organization's mission & values and is loyal in supporting the Henrico Humane Society Organization's community activities through her continuous efforts to stop the euthanizing of homeless cats and dogs.

➤ **Paula M. Martinez, Exchange Associate, Fairchild AFB Exchange:** Paula has had a lifelong emotional connection to the military and uses that connection to inspire those around her to truly appreciate the Greatest Customers in the World. She helps to mentor newly arrived spouses to Fairchild and helps them with the difficult transition to military life. Paula is active in her church as a cantor, a reader of liturgy and a greeter. She aides the Medical Lake, Washington Food Bank and the homeless shelter in Spokane by providing and raising donations. She is also a donator to St Joseph's Lakota Indian school in South Dakota. Paula has adopted an international child in Honduras by sending financial contributions, clothing, and school items.

➤ **Elma Gates, Shift Manager, Lewis North:** Elma is the senior usher at Grace Chapel located on Joint Base Lewis McChord. She also serves on the hospitably committee, has worked with the junior ushers, was president of the women group, and works with a group of retired military folks by the name IN Touch We Care. With this group she is the chair head for outreach. She has also held the position of President of AAFES Employees Assoc. local chapter for 6 years.

➤ **Louise Triplett, Exchange Associate, Joint Base Lewis-McChord:** Louise has done much in the JBLM community. While at North Fort she spent many off duty hours across the street at Grace Chapel. Many times retired Exchange managers come into the store to say hello to Louise and share stories of Louise helping a church member who had lost a loved one due to health, suicide, or to conflict. Every Thanksgiving she discreetly gives single employees with large families food baskets. These ongoing contributions demonstrate why she is being recognized for her community service.

➤ **LaFondra Dixon, Exchange associate, HQ:** LaFondra volunteers at Church of Living God in Christ (Oak Cliff), feeds the elderly and helps Youth with Bible Study and Youth Programs every other Sat

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