

At this time of year, we acknowledge the wonderful season of giving. We are humbled by the generosity of volunteers, selflessly giving of themselves

ALL YEAR LONG.

Their dedication to the cause helps all of us to renew our own commitment and to work with renewed passion for America's veterans.

It is difficult to choose a single volunteer from each region, because volunteerism itself needs to be recognized every day. As difficult as it was, each region has chosen a Volunteer of the Year for 2017. They are all an integral part of our organization. Without them we could not help thousands of veterans each year. Below you will learn a little about each of our chosen volunteers and how they help Veterans' Outreach keep on ticking.

### **Alabama Volunteer of the Year 2017**

#### **Break Through Ministry for Christ Youth Group**

The Youth Group from the Break Through Ministry for Christ Church has done innumerable acts of kindness for our Alabama office and veterans. This group is led by last years volunteer of the year Connie Cobb. This church is located right next to us and they share our parking lot. Last year they had a food drive and a money drive for us, and in our eyes it was very successful. They brought us a pick up load of food to disperse and approximately \$400 in cash. We wanted to recognize and honor the Youth Group as a whole because now days it is far too easy to disparage teens and not look for the good things that they do. This small church has between 10- 12 members in their group and range in age from 1st grade to college age. In talking to Pastor Joe they are quite involved in the community with other organizations. They visit and sing in local nursing homes as well as host toy drives for the local children for Christmas. On a national level, they have collections for St. Jude's Children's Hospital. This group is a small sample of our nations youth, but if all were as dedicated and caring as this group our futures would be in good hands.

### **Florida Volunteer of the Year 2017**

#### **Roger Hornick**

Roger has been a highly valued volunteer for some two years in the Sarasota FL office. He is an Air Force Veteran, having served in the troop support flights during the 1963-1967 Vietnam years. Roger has a 100% disability rating from the VA, following a 4,000 foot drip in 10 seconds that generated severe lumbar problems. Always smiling, Roger gives no personality impression of the multiple surgeries he has gone through - five major spine operations alone and many others. After the service years, and between surgeries, he had a productive career in the tool and metal products industries but showed his volunteer nature by many years in EMT and the Life Support facility in Sarasota once he migrated south. Roger shares "the weekly count" responsibility with another veteran volunteer. When not in the office, Roger regularly send in "cheer you up" emails to ensure that we stay positive!, and takes an active interest in his church.

## **Kentucky Regional Volunteer of the Year 2017**

### **Maria Hutchison**

Maria enlisted in the Army in November of 1976 in her senior year of high school. She did her basic training at Fort Jackson in South Carolina. Maria was stationed within the United States and moved about for three years. She then joined the Army National Guard in her home state of New Jersey. She spent many years in the work place, but always stayed in the Guard. In 1989, she was offered a full time position at the New Jersey Military Academy with the 63rd Army Band. She served and played with the band for 16 years until she retired in May of 2006. She spent a total of 30 years serving our nation.

Maria spends time at her church in worship and volunteering in many positions within the work of the church. She came to know the Veterans' Outreach through our Grayson office where she and her husband played Santa and Mrs. Claus. After that, they began volunteering for the monthly food giveaway from that office. Sadly, her husband passed on in 2017, but she continues to volunteer.

## **Ohio Regional Volunteer of the Year 2017**

### **Diann Barns**

Diann has been a highly valued volunteer for many years. She has been helping out veterans since before we purchased our corporate home - when we had a 1,200 sq. ft. office space and boxes lined our hallways. Diann has been married to Mitch for 23 years. They have 5 children, 4 daughters and 1 son. They have 5 grandchildren. Diann graduated at the top of her class with a degree in Civil Engineering. She worked for the Ohio Department of Transportation. She worked there for 20 years building bridges and paving roads. Unfortunately, she had to have surgery for a brain tumor and was left disabled after the surgery. She retired from work, but began a very active career in volunteerism. She began volunteering at Prince of Peace Church, Habitat for Humanity, the Committee for Greater Development of Youngstown, and Veterans' Outreach.

She enjoys swimming at the YMCA, baking, travel, and most of all her family. Diann is known to be "on the front line" with the veterans that come to our office. She helps in our reception area, greeting the veterans, helping them find clothing from our donated goods, fixing them up with food bags, getting appointments, and whatever else they are interested in. **She is a kind, kind soul.**

## **Veterans' Outreach Donor of the Year 2017**

### **Walmart Foundation**

In 2016, Walmart Foundation funded a grant request that we put together to start a new program called "Serve Veterans' Now Food Pantry". We began the program late in 2016, but really honed and perfected the program throughout 2017. They took a chance. We are very grateful that we have been able to provide over 60,000 lbs. of nutritional foods to over 2,500

veterans. Foods that can feed a single veteran for a couple weeks, and a family for about a week. We developed a very well received large tote of non-perishable and fresh foods. We have given out those totes to veterans visiting our corporate office as well as attended many veteran events throughout eastern Ohio where we distributed the totes. We have built new relationships with agencies and clubs that support veterans. All of this is because Walmart Foundation believed in the cause, and because of that, thousands of veterans have benefitted from it. Veterans' Outreach Board has decided to continue the program beyond the grant funds and will search for more funding because the program is a service that is really needed by so many veterans.