



# Virginia Cooperative Extension

Virginia Tech • Virginia State University

## VCE-Prince William Volunteers of the Month

May 2019-April 2020

VCE Prince William has diverse and highly trained volunteers who assist program staff to provide programs on parenting, finances, protecting the environment, and 4-H youth development. With over 751 volunteers enrolled in the program, we recognize individuals who have provided significant contributions in the past year. These volunteers have made a difference in VCE programs and in the community!

### Parent Education Program Facilitators

**Ed and Liz Rodemsky** --Volunteering their skills as parenting class facilitators since 2016, Ed and Liz Rodemsky are a dynamic duo presenting as a married couple. Ed and Liz participated in STEP classes when they first became parents and wanted to pass along the invaluable lessons they learned. Participants have commented that they learned very important lessons in their class that changed the way they parent. Ed and Liz have led classes every year serving a total of 340 volunteer hours. Their work has positively impacted 68 children and 36 parents.

**Christine Savage** has been a faithful volunteer since 2012. Her passion for helping Prince William County's children by leading their parents in School Age and Young Child Parenting classes. Christine is devoted, passionate and has an ease about instructing that participants appreciate. Participants have commented that she is open, honest, and explains things very well. She also has a wonderful sense of humor. Christine has completed 350 volunteer hours and impacted 157 children and 104 parents.

**Angela Baines** is one of our newer volunteers who completed her training in the Fall 2019. Almost immediately, she jumped at the opportunity to facilitate monthly parenting workshops at the NVFS SERVE Shelter. She has completed 55 Volunteer Hours and impacted 42 parents. The staff at SERVE have shared what a wonderful job Angela does and how the parents are very engaged with her and the information being presented. She led her first STEP Parenting class for Parents of Young Children in January 2020 which positively impacted 20 children and their families. Angela is passionate about all things parenting and is very resourceful.

### Master Gardener Volunteers

**Janene Cullen** has been a Master Gardener Volunteer since 2006 and she has accumulated 1,458 hours of volunteer service to our community. Janene has written a series of educational articles for a local news outlet, coordinated a class series for the public, taught classes at Saturday in the Garden, served as a BEST Lawns mentor to new Master Gardeners and completed 15 site visits for BEST Lawns with 5 acres of lawn assessments. She has served as a Master Gardeners of Prince William board member for several years as Treasurer, and Past President. She is an Audubon Ambassador and can be counted on to support events promoting native plants.

**Patrick Lucas** has been a Master Gardener Volunteer since 2018 and has accrued 211 hours. Since his training period he has become a leader at the Teaching Garden in the Cooks' garden and composting team. He has been researching some new methods for home gardeners to produce more reliable, quality compost in their backyards. He has initiated a food waste collection for composting and a vermicomposting program in

cooperation with the Benedictine Monastery. He grew a large quantity of butterfly host plants for a Saturday in the Garden program. His knowledge of gardening and ability to communicate as an educator is enhanced by his creative solutions to common landscaping problems.

Master Gardener Volunteer, **Jan Rice**, regularly goes above and beyond in leadership and service to our Extension Office. As she accumulated 1500 service hours, she has organized a new workspace for our busy Extension Horticulture Help Desk as well as compiling resource boxes for volunteers to use at our public events. She is a co-coordinator of the Manassas Farmers' Market "Ask a Master Gardener" booth providing research-based information to the public on lawns, vegetable growing, wildlife, and sustainable landscaping, which served over 1,300 clients in 2019. Jan's talents include training new volunteers, solving problems creatively and providing dependable, timely service for our office.

### **Master Financial Education Volunteers**

**Sandy Knight** earned her Master Financial Educator Volunteer certification almost four years ago. She has been volunteering for over five years helping clients at the SERVE shelter leading financial classes once or twice a month. Sandy shares smart goals and small steps to take with the SERVE guests as they work to get back on their feet. Sandy is diligent and compassionate in her work. She truly enjoys helping others. We regularly count on Sandy to step up when we need extra volunteers at events. Sandy is a joy to work with! We appreciate the great feedback and ideas she has shared that helped improve our program over the years.

**Ralph Sharp** signed on and earned his Master Financial Educator Volunteer title two years ago. He is a great asset to the program. He shares his wealth of financial and tax knowledge with students. He is a member of our team of trainers for the eight week MFEV Certification program. Ralph leads financial seminars every other month at the Adult Detention Center, to assist those reentering society as they transition. He is patient and explains things well for students in the financial recovery sessions. He is helping them to have an upper hand on their finances as they restart their lives. We share Ralph, as he also volunteers with AARP providing free tax assistance to our community.

**Rizwana Saeed** has been a Master Financial Educator Volunteer for two years. She consistently assists with Classes and Outreach. She often clears her schedule when we need her for events. She is certified as a VHDA Homeownership presenter and facilitates when needed. Rizwana is one of the leaders for the Your Money, Your Goals Train the Trainer seminar and she led budgeting presentations at the Northern Virginia Housing EXPO in March of 2019. Rizwana is well versed in Financial Management. Her calm nature is reassuring to students who may be stressed about their financial situation. We are fortunate she is part of our team.

### **4-H Volunteers**

**Jay McPerson** is a Virginia 4-H state level shooting education instructor in the rifle, pistol and muzzle loader disciplines. He has assumed the role of adult advisor to the BB gun program, the introductory level to rifle shooting discipline but most critical to teaching the foundational skills. Jay excels in this role and is always seeking opportunities to engage the youth in further learning. In the summer months when the youth are learning to shoot .22 caliber Jay assumes responsibility for the transportation and maintenance of the club equipment required for that discipline. Jay is a true believer in the youth/adult partnership benefit of 4-H programming and always strives to give every young person an educational and fun experience at shooting practices. Jay and his family seem to always make themselves available to help with the details such as setting up and taking down shooting ranges and targets and being present at and supporting club fundraising activities. Jay has become a member of the Prince William Izaak Walton League to assure that Trigger Time 4-H Club members will have continued access and use of facilities at the Nokesville location. In summary, Jay McPherson is an asset to Trigger Time 4-H, to Prince William 4-H and to Virginia 4-H Shooting Sports through

his continued desire to engage youth in learning life skills and achieving goals through practice, patience, and dedication to their sport.

**Kelly Auldridge** and her family are relatively new to our Prince William County 4-H family, but you'd never know it because, from day one, Kelly jumped in with both feet. Since her first week volunteering during the 2018 Fair Camp, Kelly has been a dependable volunteer who brings a wealth of creativity, caring, organizational skills and dedication with her wherever she goes. Since that first fair camp adventure she graciously took on the co-leadership of the Nokesville Community 4-H cloverbuds, assists with club planning and projects, and still found time to become a PWC Master Naturalist. Of course, she brings that knowledge and expertise to both our club and county youth, leading them through nature focused community service projects, and plans to lead a wildlife project during what will be her third year as a PWC 4-H day camp volunteer. Kelly always brings her easy smile, laughter and sense of humor; and for that, we are thankful.

**Liz Stogran** has been bringing her daughter to fair camp every summer since 2014. Last year she made us an offer we couldn't refuse, when she offered to volunteer for the entire week of camp as well as assist with planning, set up, decorations and more! Her hard work, creativity and fun spirit was seen and felt all through our 2019 fair camp as well as in the Children's Barn, during the county fair. For at least two months prior to the start of the fair, she spent many hours hand-making decorations, attended all volunteer trainings and even lead some of our counselors in those tasks. Her many years as a home-schooling parent, art teacher and softball coach have given her a wealth of creative ideas and leadership skills that she intends to keep sharing with us all, this summer. We are all lucky to work with such a knowledgeable and dedicated volunteer and cannot wait to see what she does next!

**In FY19, 751 enrolled volunteers gave 30,684 hours in support of our programs. The value of their time is the equivalent of 15.73 full time staff and equals \$780,294 (\$25.43/hr 2018 Independent sector volunteer rate). With the help of Staff and Volunteers over 19,202 citizens in the Greater Prince William area were served through our educational programs and services.**

**We are grateful our volunteers choose to volunteer with  
Virginia Cooperative Extension-Prince William**