



# Virginia Cooperative Extension

Virginia Tech • Virginia State University

**VCE Prince William's diverse and highly trained volunteers assist staff in delivering educational programs. Twelve individuals are recognized annually for their significant contributions to the Unit. In FY22, 1,018 local volunteers contributed 22,980 hours in support of local programs. The value of their time is the equivalent of 11.7 full-time staff. We are grateful they chose to volunteer with VCE!**

## **Parent Education Volunteer Facilitators**

Christine Savage began her altruistic approach to healing the community through parent education with VCE in 2012. As a former schoolteacher, Christine has remained loyal to in-person classes. She strongly believes that face to face learning provides a richer understanding for parents through connection. Christine's passion is teaching parents with school age children (ages 6 to 12). In addition to teaching, Christine volunteered to compare our Systematic Training for Effective Parenting of School Age Children curriculum to several new parenting programs for the same age group. Christine reported that VCE's program is still relevant. The program continues to meet the needs of today's parents. Christine has provided 435 volunteer hours that directly impacted 128 parents, resulting in an indirect impact on 175 children.

Angela Baines exemplifies all the core values of volunteering. Angela completed Systematic Training for Effective Parenting of School Age Children (ages 6 to 12) with VCE in 2019. Angela remains a dependable volunteer who completes classes on time. Angela is always willing to lend a helping hand where needed. Angela's motivation is rooted in providing a forum for parental growth. To quote Angela's philosophy, "Learning is about expanding /enriching my worldview to better understand and relate to others." Angela has provided 149 volunteer hours that directly impacted 72 parents, resulting in an indirect impact on 63 children.

Linda Christ's joyful spirit pairs well with teaching Systematic Training for Effective Parenting of Young Children (ages birth to 6). Linda completed her parenting education training with VCE in 2020. To keep classes on schedule Linda stepped out of her comfort zone to teach virtually. Linda continues to receive accolades from parents regarding how much they enjoyed and learned from her classes. Linda has provided 140 volunteer hours that directly impacted 53 parents, resulting in an indirect impact on 30 children.

Audrey Spencer-Horsley completed Systematic Training for Effective Parenting of School Age Children (ages 6 to 12) in summer of 2020. Since then Audrey has co-lead classes and facilitated classes solo. Audrey's natural ability to meet parents where they are in their parenting journey serves the parents well. Feedback from parents consistently states that in Audrey's class they felt heard, not judged and free to ask questions. Audrey has provided 70 volunteer hours that directly impacted 23 parents, resulting in an indirect impact on 42 children.

## **Master Financial Education Volunteers**

Cynthia Schell is a Senior Master Financial Educator and HUD-Certified Housing Counselor in Virginia Cooperative Extension's Financial Education & Housing Counseling Program. With more than 15+ years serving our community in a financial empowerment capacity, staff members have nicknamed her "Most Reliable". With close to 1,000 hours under her belt, Cynthia has played several critical volunteer roles including financial assessment advisor, course content developer and instructor, tax advisor and coach to new volunteers. She brings expertise with a touch of wittiness to everything she tackles. As a result, it is always a pleasure watching her do what she loves.

Ralph Sharpe trained as a Master Financial Education Volunteer in April 2018. Since becoming an MFEV, Ralph was a consistent contributor to our program by teaching classes, updating class presentations, and becoming an approved ADC-Adult Detention Center instructor. During this critical period when we were short staffed, Ralph stepped in and saved the day. Ralph brought a wealth of knowledge from his background as a financial

services attorney with over 25 years of banking regulations. We will miss Ralph's contributions to our program, we understand he would like to enjoy some travel. Ralph on behalf of the Financial Education and Housing Counseling Program thank you for your time and dedication to our program.

### **Master Gardener Volunteers**

Pam Rockx was a volunteer in the 90's, then returned to the Master Gardener program and has accrued 1475 lifetime hours. She is a leader for the Manassas Farmers' Market Thursday produce collection, Plant A Row and coordinates the volunteer team each week from April – November. The produce, donated by farmers and delivered by Master Gardeners is taken to nearby food pantries. Pam is also an integral volunteer on the Cooks' Garden team at the Teaching Garden, assisting with instruction, tours, and maintenance of the edible crops grown in demonstration beds. She has served as an instructor on topics in the annual series of classes for the community on growing vegetables.

Pam Forshay has been leader of the Dale City Farmers' Market Plant a Row produce collection for the past 4-5 years, providing consistent leadership and innovative procedures to improve efficiency and volunteer involvement. Volunteers at this large farmers' market handle about 100,000 pounds of produce per season. Pam has 560 hours.

Jeanne Mitchell has coordinated the Manassas Farmers' market since 2007 and is taking a break this year and co-leading with Pam Rockx. She has created great group dynamics with her fellow volunteers and arranges social events for the group also. She has 1,245 hours.

### **4-H Youth Development Volunteers**

Sandy Seagle has been a volunteer with the 4-H program for over 10 years. She is a certified Shooting Education Instructor with Trigger Time 4-H Club who dedicates countless hours to the program each week. Sandy is always available to support club leaders, members, and parents at any time, day or night, and always prioritizes the needs of others over her own. Working with the club leaders, Sandy is the foundation of the club coordination of volunteers for key fundraising events, and registration for local, district, state, and national competitions. She works tirelessly to coordinate the thousands of details related to the clubs more than 50 youth members in a fashion that allows the club to function smoothly and even look good doing it. In addition to supporting Trigger Time 4-H Club, Sandy educates new member families about the many opportunities available to their youth in the 4-H program and urges all to participate in educational contests, training sessions, camps, and events. Sandy was nominated this year to be inducted as a Virginia 4-H All-Star.

Brad Seagle is a quiet but extremely dedicated volunteer. He supports both Trigger Time 4-H Club and the Prince William 4-H program. Brad routinely volunteers his time and energy on demanding tasks that other volunteers shy away from. He works in the background but is ever present with a friendly attitude and smile to match. He never leaves a task uncompleted and never refuses to help others complete their own tasks. Brad is welcoming to all new member families with his friendly and jovial nature. He knows the value of the 4-H program and encourages all to take full advantage of the life skill development opportunities offered through membership.

Bruce Erick is a certified shooting education instructor for Trigger Time 4-H Club. Since joining the club only a few years ago, Bruce has jumped head-first into leadership and has been instrumental in expanding the club's range of facilities. Bruce is a patient instructor and works well with youth and adults alike. Bruce gave leadership to coaching the air rifle team who competed at 4-H Nationals in Grande Island, NE in 2022. His mentorship encouraged the team members to capitalize on their opportunity by meeting youth from across the country and displaying great sportsmanship throughout the competition. Bruce prioritizes his time working with 4-H youth over his own schedule dedicating countless hours each week to coaching. Bruce is a recent military retiree. We are thankful for his service and thankful that he and his family continue to live in Prince William and support the 4-H program.

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