River Region Volunteer of the Year 2022 Nomination Packet

This packet includes:
Nomination Form, General Information, Award Category Descriptions, Eligibility and Selection Process, and a listing of the 2021 Award Recipients

All nominations must be submitted electronically. The online nomination form is available at www.handsonriverregion.org

NOMINATION DEADLINE: 4 pm, March 11, 2022

Presented by:

HandsOn RIVER REGION

2022 River Region Volunteer of the Year Celebration
April 21, 2022 at 3:30pm
Location TBD

For more information, contact Leslie Martorana
leslie@handsonriverregion.org

2022 River Region Volunteer of the Year
NOMINATION FORM

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 4 pm on March 11, 2022

Please select the category for your nominee:

❑ Adult (19 - 64) ❑ Senior (65+) ❑ Youth (18 & under)
❑ Adult Group ❑ Youth Group (18 & under)

NOMINEE: (Person or group you are nominating. *Please inform your nominee of this special recognition.)*

Individual Volunteer: _____ D.O.B: _____/_____/_____
OR
Volunteer Group: _____Number in Group: _____

Phone: _____Cell: _____

Email: _____

Address:_____

NOMINATED BY: (Person or group submitting the nomination.)

Name: _____

Agency: _____

Agency Contact: _____ Title: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

NOMINATION PACKET SUBMISSIONS: Should include the Nomination Form, picture, and narrative that encompass responses to the following:

- What are some compelling examples of the nominee's service and volunteerism?
- How does this nominee stand apart from all the rest?
- What is the impact of the nominee's service on the community, agency, or organization?
- Cite an example of initiative or extra effort given by the nominee.
- Cite any special challenges the nominee has overcome.

Please email packet to **leslie@handsonriverregion.org.** You are also encouraged to include up to **3 letters of support and news articles**.
Remember, you may know your nominee very well, but the packet you submit is the basis for the judges' decision!

Please submit your application electronically by accessing the online nomination form at www.handsonriverregion.org

2022 River Region Volunteer of the Year

Celebrating the Spirit of Volunteerism

The Volunteer of the Year Awards Celebration has become the River Region's largest annual event recognizing individuals and groups who have given selflessly of their time and talent to improve their community and the overall quality of life. The awards celebration is held each year during National Volunteer Week in April and is co-hosted by HandsOn River Region and the Junior League of Montgomery.

The Volunteer of the Year ceremony provides an excellent opportunity for you to recognize and express appreciation to community volunteers. We hope you will consider recognizing outstanding volunteers in a memorable and inspiring way at this event given in *their* honor.

General Information

HandsOn River Region - *Mobilizes volunteers and connects people, information, and services to meet local needs and build a strong, caring community***.** Founded in 1974 by the Junior League of Montgomery and United Way's Community Council, HONRR is an agency of the River Region United Way and an affiliate member of the Points of Light Foundation, HandsOn Network, and the Alliance of Information & Referral Services.

The Junior League of Montgomery - Founded in 1926, the Junior League of Montgomery is one of 290+ leagues across 4 countries representing almost 175,000 women. JLM is composed of nearly 800 members who donate approximately 20,000 hours of volunteer service annually. JLM reaches out to all women regardless of race, religion, color, or national origin.

Awards

Awards are given to outstanding individual volunteers and volunteer groups whose efforts have brought about a positive impact on the River Region.

Categories (Eligible for Nominations):

- **Adult Group -** Groups eligible for this award represent colleges, civic organizations, faith-based groups, or corporations. Consideration is given to the groups' collective approach to problem solving and improving the community.
- **Adult Volunteer (Ages 19 – 64) -** Individuals eligible for this award may be involved in a variety of community activities or may have a concentration of service with a particular cause. The collective effect of their work has an impact on agencies and the community at large. Consideration is given to the nominee's longevity, focus or variety of work, and overall impact.
- **Senior Volunteer (Age 65+) -** Individuals eligible for this award have participated in hands-on, direct service with one or more agencies. Their service is considered extraordinary. Consideration is given to the nominee's longevity, focus, and impact to the agency, its constituents, and/or the community.
- **Youth Group (18 & under) -** Groups eligible for this award may represent schools, faith-based organizations, or service clubs. Consideration is given to the group's team approach to problem solving and improving the community.
- **Youth Volunteer (18 & under) -** This award recognizes a youth who incorporates volunteerism into his/her life and serves as an inspiration to others.

Lifetime Achievement Award – The HandsOn River Region Board and community partners reserve the right to honor those individuals who have provided lifelong exceptional service to others and improved the quality of life in the River Region through volunteer action.

Eligibility and Selection Process

Eligibility: Deserving volunteers may be nominated by anyone in the community or by a school, business, faith-based organization, government entity, or 501(c) (3) nonprofit agency. Nominees must currently be active volunteers (or active within the past 12 months). Volunteers at for-profit hospitals or hospices are eligible for nomination. National Service program participants (AmeriCorps VISTA, Learn & Serve, RSVP, Foster Grandparents, Senior Companions, etc.) are also eligible based on their volunteer involvement in their service assignment. Individuals involved in court mandated community service or those serving as loaned executives are not eligible. Persons who receive compensation for service rendered (excluding AmeriCorps living allowance) are also not eligible. ***Winners from the previous five years are ineligible for nomination unless the nominee is a group whose membership changes annually.***

Nomination Process: Nominations may be submitted for each category; however, only 2 nominees per category will be accepted from an agency or individual. An exception is made for umbrella agencies with multiple sites that operate independently. Each independent site may submit 2 nominations in each category. This exception does not apply to multiple programs or departments within one agency. Nomination narratives are very important as they introduce the nominee and their commitment to service to the judges. Nominations not accompanied by the narrative will not be accepted. Pictures, newspaper articles, and up to 3 letters of support are encouraged but will not be returned to the nominator.

- The nominator is responsible for informing all persons they have nominated.
- **Those submitting nominations will receive an email confirmation within three business days of nomination submission. If you do not receive a confirmation, please email Leslie Martorana at leslie@handsonriverregion.org.**

Screening and Selection Process: HandsOn utilizes judges who are selected for their involvement in and knowledge of the community. Judges individually select three finalists in each award category. The judges then meet to review the finalists and select the recipients for each category. All nominees are formally recognized at the reception and receive certificates of appreciation.

Finalist Notification: Award winners and their nominators will be notified at the awards ceremony.

2021 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD RECIPIENTS

2021 Adult Award Winner: *Patrick Aitken* is an everyday hero and champion for the over 800 homeless living in the River Region.

2021 Adult Group Award Winner: *The Autauga County Master Gardeners Association* maintains community gardens, donates produce to low-income families and presents programs in schools to pass along their love of gardening.

2021 Senior Volunteer Award Winner: *Gloria Jean Williams* provides educational and enrichment services to at risk children of incarcerated parents through SKIP, an organization she founded 40 years ago.

2021 Youth Award Winner: *Tionna Tate*, a LAMP graduate, established and led the school's FOCUS Program to raise awareness about social issues focusing primarily on mental health matters.

2021 Youth Group Award Winner: *Philanthropy 101 Program at the Montgomery Academy* is comprised of selected rising seniors who participate in a summer course that challenges them to question their abilities to make a difference in the community.

2021 COVID Community Hero: *Diane Oetting* staffed numerous clinics hosted by the EMA to help over 9,000 folks get vaccinated against COVID.