

September 27, 2013

DHS | Department of Community Service and Nonprofit Support
PO Box 1437, Slot S230
Little Rock, AR 72203-1437

RE: Arkansas Volunteer Community of the Year

Please find the enclosed submission for Fayetteville, Arkansas. Thank you for all the work you do for The People of Arkansas.

Sincerely,



Dede Peters
Community Outreach Coordinator



DHS/DCSNS

Department of Human Services Division of Community Service and Nonprofit Support
2013

ARKANSAS VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Nomination Cover Sheet

DEADLINE: September 30, 2013

NOMINEE (Please type or print)

Community Name City of Fayetteville, Arkansas Population 73,580

County Washington County

Mayor's Name Lioneld Jordan

Mayor's Address City Hall, 113 W. Mountain Street, Fayetteville AR 72701

Mayor's Daytime Phone 479.575.8330 Email mayor@fayetteville-ar.gov

State District Officials: Senator(s) Uvalde Lindsey

Representative(s) Charlie Collins, Greg Leding, David Whitaker

Has your community reported its volunteer hours to the Economic Impact of Arkansas
Volunteers for 2012? Yes No

NOMINATOR (Please type or print)

Name Dede Peters, Community Outreach Coordinator

Address City Hall, 113 W. Mountain Street, Fayetteville, AR 72701

Daytime Phone 479.575.8302 Email dpeters@fayetteville-ar.gov

9.27.2013
Date

[Signature]
Signature of Nominator

NOMINATIONS MUST CONFORM TO GUIDELINE CRITERIA OR THEY WILL NOT BE SUBMITTED TO THE SELECTION COMMITTEE. All nominations will be judged on guideline criteria and supplementary material. All nominations become the property of the DHS Division of Community Service and Nonprofit Support and will not be returned to the nominee. **Please note: Because of processing and tracking complications, FAXED nominations cannot be accepted.**

Everyone could use a hand. And almost everyone can lend a hand. This exchange of give and take happens many times a day in the City of Fayetteville, Arkansas. During 2012, a \$14,550,641.58 economic impact was created by over 38,000 volunteers who gave over 657,000 hours toward improving their own lives and the lives of others in this extraordinary community.

Fayetteville is often found on a variety of "Best of" lists. It's the dedication of hard work to be the best that allows the community to make those lists. Much of this hard work is contributed by the residents, businesses, and students of this community. Millions of acts of kindness happen in Fayetteville. We wish we could count them all. We're immensely proud of the people who volunteer countless hours doing something for someone else.

City of Fayetteville – Fayetteville depends on its commissions and boards made of dedicated citizens with experience or passion and particular field of interest. More than 3,000 hours and almost 200 individuals serve on boards and committees who research and make recommendations to City Council. During 2012, tremendous volunteer activity (7,868 hours) was dedicated to the Fayetteville Animal Shelter. Transporting animals out-of-state, socializing cats and dogs and showing animals at the Farmer's Market are just a few of the activities that have reduced the Shelter's euthanasia rate from 50% in 2009 to 6% today, one of the lowest government euthanasia rates in the country. Fayetteville's parks and trails contribute to a high quality of life and residents know that it takes a village. More than 1,000 hours a month (12,397 annually) are given to build off road trails, provide a friendly presence on paved trails, and clean nearly 14,000 acres of parkland. Mayor Lioneld Jordan was elected in 2009 and asked Fayetteville citizens to gather and pursue ideas to diversify its economy and make a difference in their own back yard. Fayetteville Forward emerged as a council made of a variety of action groups

and it is still strong today. Last year, seven action groups made of 100 residents committed over 3,000 hours toward improving Fayetteville's economy. The Green Economy Action Group held a green jobs fair was held, connecting businesses with potential employees. The Creative Economy Action Group began to apply for 501(c)(3) status and also started working on an app to connect creatives, such as photographers, painters, designers, videographers, and sculptors to clients.

University of Arkansas – Fayetteville is home to a growing student body of 25,000 – nearly one-third of the City's population. The University of Arkansas has reached its growth goal nine years ahead of schedule. Growth provides challenges and opportunities. An influx of students means more volunteers for Fayetteville organizations. According to University records, almost every student volunteers (21,720), providing an astounding contribution of almost four million dollars in labor (\$3,983, 506.29) to area agencies. Another development due to the University's growth was the foundation of the first Town and Gown Committee in the summer of 2012. This committee is made up of University and City representatives, as well as volunteers representing different sectors of the community. These volunteers have signed up to help influence expansion decisions as the University grows. Just two of the priorities set by this committee are looking at a University/City cost share for an expanded fire station and a University Overlay District to guide development in neighborhoods that border the University.

Community – Many communities across the country struggled in different ways through the recent economic troubles. Northwest Arkansas saw a rise in food insecurity; 25% of the region's population experiences this on a weekly basis. Organizations, churches, individuals, and the City responded with over 62,000 hours of service. Feed Fayetteville, The Farm, Community Meals, TriCycle Farms, Apple Seeds, Sunday Suppers, the Fayetteville Senior Center, Fayetteville's community gardens,

and Fayetteville Forward's Local Food Action Group are just a few of the organizations that make food available to anyone in need. Gardens have been created, tended and food is grown and shared. Hands-on free cooking and nutrition classes are held, teaching attendees how to stretch that grocery dollar. Citizens come together to create meals, often using donated food and produce, for hundreds of people on a daily or weekly basis. This also provides social interaction and community building both in the kitchen and in the dining room. Fayetteville City Council is also responding to the needs of its citizens and will soon change ordinances to allow more produce and livestock to be raised within City limits. Employees and especially students of the Fayetteville Public School District continue to support their community giving over 74,000 hours of service with students learning the life lesson of lending a hand.

Fayetteville's citizens also give time to sustain its lively cultural and valuable historical heritage with over 44,000 hours volunteered. One of the jewels of this community is the Fayetteville Library; 86% of residents have a library card. The Library is sustained with the help of 216 volunteers giving over 14,000 hours of service. Our veterans are honored by 636 volunteers who donated 50,194 hours to the men and women who have served this country.

The generosity of the Fayetteville community is astounding. Residents follow a passion or see a need and pitch in. They join a board and become leaders. They inspire others and leave a legacy. Folks who have benefited then give back as can be seen with the volunteer corps and boards of such organizations like the NWA Single Parent Scholarship Fund, NWA Free Clinic, YouthBridge, Boys and Girls Club, Pagnozzi Charities, Seven Hills Center, NWA Center for Equality, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Ozark Literacy Council, and so many more valuable community assets. We hope to honor our volunteers and their 657,210.55 hours of service with an Arkansas Volunteer Community of the Year Award.



Full Circle Food Pantry students to be recognized by the White House

By [Dustin Bartholomew](#) · 0 Comments
on March 14, 2012 at 12:51 pm

[f Share](#) 0 [Tweet](#) 0

All that [voting](#) for the University of Arkansas' Full Circle Food Pantry worked wonders

The program finished second in the nationwide competition intended to [inspire](#) young folks to get involved in their communities. The group received 57,142 votes (second only to the University of Massachusetts-Amherst's 59,852 votes) and is one of five winners of the [White House Campus Champions of Change Challenge](#).

Now, the four students behind the program and one UA staffer will travel to the White House this week to be recognized for their achievements.



From left: Sylvia Tran, Julia Lyon, Angela Oxford, Rachael Pellegrino and Mirelle Pierini will represent the Full Circle Campus Food Pantry at the White House.

Courtesy image

The students making the trip are: Julia Lyon, a student volunteer and chair of the Full Circle Campus Food Pantry; Sylvia Tran, an intern with the Volunteer Action Center; Full Circle volunteers Mirelle Pierini and Rachel Pellegrino. Angela Oxford, director for the center for community engagement, will accompany the students.

"Thanks to everyone who has supported the Full Circle Campus Food Pantry," said Lyon. "We never dreamed we would be [invited](#) to the White House as a result of this program. We certainly could not have achieved this without everyone voting as they did."

The students will tour the White House and visit with Arkansas Senator Mark Pryor before taking part in a public ceremony and panel discussion on Thursday, March 15. The ceremony and panel will be streamed live on the [White House website](#) at 1:50 p.m.

The Champions of Change program was created as a part of President Obama's [Winning the Future](#) initiative. Each week, a different sector is highlighted and groups, ranging from educators to entrepreneurs to community leaders, are recognized for the work they are doing to serve and strengthen their communities.

In addition to being invited to the White House, these Campus Champions of Change will have the opportunity to work with mtvU and MTV Act to create short features about their projects that will air on mtvU and be featured on MTV.com.

The Full Circle Food Pantry was opened in February 2011 by students involved with the university's Volunteer Action Center with the goal of providing a dignified and discreet way for any member of the University of Arkansas community who needed food to get it. In the first year of operation, the pantry has served more than 2,500 people.

To follow along with the students' experiences, follow [@UAVAC](#) on Twitter, or check out the Volunteer Action Center's [blog](#).

Stickwork installation underway at Walton Arts Center

By Dustin Bartholomew 11 Comments
on May 15, 2012 at 3:13 pm

[Share](#) 0 [Tweet](#) 0

Flint



Richter weaves sticks and sapling branches together atop a scaffolding on the Walton Arts Center plaza Tuesday afternoon.

Photos: Todd Gill, Flyer staff

There's something growing in front of the Walton Arts Center. Something big.

A large-scale sculpture from "stickwork" artist Patrick Dougherty is under construction on the arts center's main plaza.

The work was commissioned by the Walton Arts Center as part of this year's Artosphere Festival and is being created by Dougherty and several local volunteers.

Dougherty, who arrived last week for an 19-day residency in Fayetteville, is well-known for his installations which are crafted from saplings harvested from wooded areas that are overgrown or generally too densely forested to survive.

"Sticks are something we all have in common," Dougherty said of his work. "Everybody knows sticks – the twigs and branches picked up on grandfather's farm, the branches woven in grandmother's basket. Somewhere threaded in all the public mass is a common thread, and that thread is the human spirit."

A carpenter by trade, Dougherty began his installation work after studying primitive building techniques using tree saplings as construction materials in the 1980s. Thirty years later, he has completed over 200 works in places all over the world.

Flint Richter, who is heading up local volunteer efforts, said the installation should be complete by May 28, and will remain on display indefinitely.

"The plan is to leave it up as long as we can," said Richter. "It will be built to last for several years."

For more information about Dougherty's work, visit [stickwork.net](#)



Patrick Dougherty (bottom) and Flint Richter work on the sculpture Tuesday afternoon.

Photo: Todd Gill

Volunteers install the first PIGShibition pig sculpture on the Fayetteville square

By Todd Gill 0 Comments
on August 2, 2012 at 12:39 pm

Share 0 Tweet 0



Ozark Literacy Council volunteers unload a 5-foot-tall pig Thursday morning before installing the sculpture in front of Arvest Bank on the Fayetteville downtown square

Photo: Todd Gill, Flyer staff

A 5-foot-tall pig was spotted in downtown Fayetteville today

OK, not really. Well, sort of.

Volunteers installed the first PIGShibition pig sculpture in front of Arvest Bank on the northeast corner of the square Thursday morning.

The sculpture is part of a fundraising and community art project organized by the Ozark Literacy Council, a nonprofit organization that aims draw awareness to local literacy issues.

About 25 pigs, sponsored by local business and then painted by local artists, will be displayed in various locations around Northwest Arkansas over the next few weeks. Several of the sculptures will be auctioned off in the "Piggies Go To Market" fundraiser and gala event set for March 14, 2013.

Fayetteville sculptor Mike Davis Gutierrez designed the original pig and Glynn Samuels, who owns G&D Fiberglass in Hindsville, supplied the fiberglass molds.

Local artist Priscilla White designed the Arvest-sponsored pig whose theme is "Pick Up a Book and Read." Another local artist, Matt Miller, is set to paint a pig sculpture live from 7 to 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 4 during the Fayetteville Farmers' Market on the Square.

For more information, visit the PIGShibition website at pigshibition.org, or check out the group's Facebook page at facebook.com/pigshibition.



Volunteers needed for May 8 stream bank planting

By Todd Gill · 0 Comments
on May 7, 2012 at 12:14 pm

[f Share](#) 0 [Tweel](#) 0

Volunteers are needed for a tree, grass and shrub planting event from 4 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 8 at Sweetbriar Park, 2645 E. Sweetbriar Dr. in Fayetteville.

The planting will take place along Niokaska Creek at the site of a recent stream bank stabilization and restoration project.

Native plants will be provided by the Washington County Cooperative Extension Service.

Volunteers are encouraged to bring gloves, hand gardening tools, picks, shovels and wheelbarrows if possible.

Snacks, drinks and pizza will be provided to participants

For more information, call Carole Jones at 479-444-3472.



Feed Fayetteville, Seeds That Feed seek local produce donations

By Dustin Bartholomew · 0 Comments
on June 8, 2012 at 4:39 pm

[f Share](#) 0 [Tweel](#) 0

Local non-profit organization Feed Fayetteville has partnered with Seeds That Feed to collect donations of fresh, local produce for distribution to area food pantries.

The organization is asking individuals to purchase extra produce from the farmers' market or grocery store, or to donate extra produce from their gardens to the program to help battle food insecurity in Fayetteville.

So far this year, volunteers have collected over 2,000 pounds of fresh locally grown produce for area pantries and community meals through the program.

Those interested in donating to the program can do so from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays at the Feed Fayetteville booth, located at the Fayetteville Farmers market on the square. Donations may also be made on Tuesdays from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at LifeSource International, located at 602 School Avenue. All donations will be weighed and then distributed to local community meals and food pantries.

Seeds that Feed will also arrange for scheduled pick-ups from individuals who are unable to drop-off their donations during these times.

