

Meet your award winning neighbors ...

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Humanitarian Award



Joy Sparks

Joy Sparks of Poplar Ridge Friends Meeting earned the Humanitarian Award, which recognizes an individual, group or business that promotes the welfare of the Archdale-Trinity community and its people.

In late 2006, Sparks approached the Monthly Meeting about the implementation of Angel Food Ministries, which allows anyone to purchase groceries at a discount. The effort would benefit not only church members, but the community. Sparks led the effort by the Share and Care Sunday School Class to begin the program.

The program, which operates in 38 states and fills 600,000 orders per month, offers grocery store quality food items at a reduced cost. The ministry, Sparks said, would show the community that the church cares about the daily struggles families face in a tough economy.

With the Meeting's approval, Sparks and her class members began to educate the congregation and community. Angel Food Ministries became a reality in the spring of 2007.

According to the Awards Committee, Sparks saw the need for this kind of relief in these tough economic times — relief that is available to all with no income requirements or applications to complete.

Since its inauguration in 2007, Sparks and her volunteers reached an all-time high in November with 200 boxes ordered. Sparks has publicized, organized and spearheaded the ministry which has reached far beyond the congregation to include more than 200 clients. To carry out the program, Sparks drives to Burlington at 5 a.m. once a month to pick up the orders, transport them back to the Meeting in Trinity, and then separates and organizes the orders for pick-up.

The success of the ministry has encouraged other churches in the area to become host sites, following the example set by Sparks and her committed volunteers.

Community Outreach of Archdale-Trinity also benefits from this ministry. Some people order boxes, which are donated to COAT for distribution to families in need.

"Joy Sparks represents the spirit and ingenuity of the humanitarian, who sees a need and determines how to address it," said members of the Awards Committee. "She will tell you that she cannot do it alone. But it has been her vision, her determination, and her energy that has brought Angel Food Ministries to Archdale and Trinity and given our families options to help live better lives."



Penny Stewart

Extra Mile Award

She has more than 1,200 potential patients at three different locations every day. Throw in faculty and staff and that creates the daily work load of Penny Stewart, Randolph County Schools nurse in the Archdale-Trinity attendance area.

For her dedication, Stewart received the Extra Mile Award, which recognizes an individual who gives more than expected or required to improve the quality of life in the Archdale-Trinity community in the course of their regular jobs.

In addition, Stewart mentors new school nurses in the area and serves as the president of the Regional School Nurses' Association.

The Chamber's Awards Committee praised all school nurses who deal with everything from paper cuts, head lice checks, children throwing up and more serious issues like asthma and diabetes. However, Stewart goes well beyond those duties.

She spends extra to make home visits, takes students to doctor's appointments, finds medical care for students who don't have access to health care, visits sick children in the hospital and follows up when they return.

In the care of school staff members, she conducts blood pressure and sugar checks and makes sure they visit their own doctors when needed.

In her Extra Mile efforts, she answers questions and educates parents about illnesses their children have developed like asthma and diabetes. She works with students to encourage exercise and to make healthier eating choices.

She has taken several students "under her wing," like Sylvia, a student in foster care. Stewart and her husband John mentored Sylvia to help her finish high school.

School staff members have described Stewart as a surrogate mom to many students — helping them with not only medical issues, but social and emotional problems as well. Andrea Haynes, principal of Archdale-Trinity Middle School says, "Nurse Penny is very committed to our children and their well being. She is easy to work with and comes to our aid as fast as possible to help with whatever we need. She does so much for our students!" Nurse Penny also started a program with Communities In Schools called GIRLS Club. This program, which provides support to middle school girls who need a caring adult in their lives, is near and dear to her heart as she developed the concept in hopes of reaching more girls who have much potential, but need a role model to guide them.

She volunteers her time with this program and at times provides transportation for its participants.

"These and many other examples make this nurse a great example of the kind of people who make Archdale Trinity a better place to live," noted the Awards Committee.

Heritage Award

Elizabeth Saunders — genealogist, author, small business owner and a staff member of the Archdale-Trinity News — received the Heritage Award, which recognizes an individual, group or business that has endeavored to educate the community about its history and heritage, or has sought to preserve its history.

Saunders grew up in Archdale and attended Trinity High School and N.C. State University before embarking on a career in aeronautical engineering in Maryland. She returned to North Carolina in 2003 and to Archdale in 2005.

Saunders' long-time interest in "old things" has taken her in many directions.

In 2005, she published a book about the Quaker heritage of Archdale and the surrounding community, "Archdale Friends Meeting: Genealogical Extracts from the Monthly Meeting Minutes."

The book includes information on more than 100 area families. Saunders is credited with indexing 25 years of Archdale Friends Meeting church minutes, which chronicle the heartbeat of church life — births, deaths, marriages, committee appointments and other activities.

Her personal genealogical research has led her to search for "lost" ancestors by visiting cemeteries, libraries and other research sites throughout North Carolina, South Carolina and Missouri, and as far away as Edinburgh, Scotland and Dublin, Ireland. She has documented some branches of her family tree back 10 generations.

According to the Awards Committee, Saunders eagerly shares her knowledge and helps others in the community realize the importance of documenting their heritage. She teaches workshops to demonstrate proper care and display of photographs and other family memorabilia.

"All of this love of heritage spills over into the stories she writes for the Archdale Trinity News," said Committee members.

As one of the "Meet Your Neighbor" Series of articles, Saunders researched and wrote a story about the alumni of old Trinity School, complete with pictures and interviews. "As the community transitions to a growing population, local history is in danger of being lost or overlooked," said Committee members.

"We need people like Beth. Her joy in discovering and uncovering the past will be a gift to our community as we look to our heritage to remind us of who we are and from where we came."



Elizabeth Saunders

Sponsorships available for Jack Frost tournament

Sponsors are needed for the seventh annual Jack Frost Challenge Soccer Tournament to be held Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 14-15, at the soccer facilities on Turnpike Road.

The tournament is organized by the Archdale-Trinity Chamber of Commerce tourism committee, the Carl and Linda Grubb Family YMCA and the Guil-Rand Youth Soccer Association.

Not only do players score in this event, so do local businesses.

The tournament usually brings in 1,200 to 1,500 people to the Archdale-Trinity area, a perk for restaurants and local hotels.

Last year's event included 41 teams.

Beverly Nelson, president of the Chamber, said last year this translates into approximately 2,000 people spending money in the Archdale-Trinity area.

The Chamber supports the soccer tournament as a way to promote local businesses. However, sponsors are needed.

Here are the options:

Hat trick level, \$250, entitles the sponsor to a 24-inch by 18-inch directional sign featuring the sponsor's name and logo at each tournament site, name on a T-shirt plus other tournament benefits.

Upper Ninety level, \$200, will include the donor's name on a 24-inch by 18-inch sign at each tournament site, name on a T-shirt, plus other benefits.

For \$100, Jack Frost level will provide name and logo on a tournament map to be mailed to each team and the opportunity to put coupons in goodie bags to be given to each player.

For more information, call the Chamber at 434-2073 or visit www.archdaletrinitychamber.com.

Who's who on Chamber's board

Executive Committee

Tony Delligatti, Chairman
McDonald's

Scott Grissom, Chairman-elect
Costa & Grissom Machinery, Inc.

Division Vice Presidents

Darrell Frye
Randolph County Commissioners

Tonia Stephenson
Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club

Jeff Gerlock
Blue Ridge Geological Services, Inc.

Rhonda Winters
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Darrell Wilson
Wilson Insurance Associates, Inc.

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Bank of North Carolina

Betsy Lowder, Treasurer
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Carmen Dabiero
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Kim Cates
Domino's, Hillsville

Cheri Gray
Gray's Jewelry

Stan Byrd Sr.
Stan Byrd Realty

George Taylor
Archdale Public Library

Leslie Zimmerman
Zimmerman Vineyards

Jeff Koone
Duke Energy

Bert Lance-Stone
City of Archdale

Dinesh Tolani
Pioneer Family Restaurant & Steakhouse

Richard Brown
My Circle of Friends

Joan Rotramel
A Therapeutic Touch

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