County of Ashe—Where Volunteers Make the Difference

12TH ANNUAL SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE UNDERWAY

Now that the Ashe County school year is over, it is time to begin planning for the year ahead, which will be here before we know it. It seems the cost of sending children to school increases every year. This can be a stressful and difficult time for families, placing a hardship on many who struggle financially, which is especially true if they have to purchase the necessary school supplies for more than one child. In order to help these families and students, the Twelfth Annual Ashe County School Supply Drive began June 26th and will run through August 11th. School supplies that are donated will be divided and taken to all five schools where the Guidance Counselors will distribute supplies as needed. Drop off locations include LifeStore branches in Jefferson and W Jefferson, Fifth Third Bank, First Citizens Bank, Ashe Services for Aging, Jefferson Drug, Family Dollar, Dollar General Stores in Jefferson and W Jefferson, Ashe County Library, Medi Home Hospice and United Chemi-Con. Gift cards are also appreciated. For example, a $15.00 gift card can be used to purchase a book bag filled with paper, pencils, glue, scissors and crayons. When purchasing please remember our high schoolers needs too!! If your business, church, agency or civic organization would like to participate, please contact Terri Hopkins, Ashe County Volunteer Coordinator at 336-246-4347. The Ashe County Volunteer Initiative Program sponsors this drive and thanks you for helping our youth succeed in school.

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Ashe Services for Aging has volunteer opportunities with their Home Delivered Meals Program. Volunteers transport meals from Ashe Services for Aging, where they are prepared, and then to the homes of qualified individuals within the county. Volunteers are taken on a route with a staff member or another volunteer until they learn the clients, routes, and rules. Volunteers donate about two or three hours per day. Individuals can volunteer one day a week and up to five days a week. You may deliver independently or team up with another volunteer. If you would like to volunteer with the program or would like more information, please call Terri Hopkins, Ashe County Volunteer Coordinator, at 336-246-4347.

*Ashe Services for Aging is an equal opportunity employer and provider.*
32nd Annual Ashe County Commissioners Volunteer Awards Update

The Ashe County Volunteer Awards were held on Thursday, April 27, 2017, at the Ashe County High School with registration and refreshments at 6:15. The Ceremony began at 7:00 pm. Volunteers enjoyed entertainment from Taylon Hope Miller, who sang the National Anthem and several of her own songs from her new album. Volunteers received a certificate of appreciation and a gift. The 2017 Volunteer of the Year Awards winners are: Christmas in July Festival, West Jefferson Lions Club, West Jefferson United Methodist Church, Greg Topczewski, Dana Johnson, Ruth Anne Phipps, Bonnie Cox, Hannah Barker, and James “Jim” Wiles. The Volunteer of the Year award winners received a plaque, a framed certificate, and a gift. Over 414 volunteer nominations were received this year. Thank you Ashe County Volunteers for all you do to make a difference in the lives of the people of Ashe County.

Governor Awards Update

Each year, the Ashe County Volunteer Initiative Program sends volunteer nominations to the North Carolina Commission of Volunteerism for outstanding volunteers to be recognized on the State level. The Ashe County 2017 Governor Award winners are: Martin Little, Ashe Outreach, AEV (American Emergency Vehicles), Ken Glover, Shelter Baptist Church, Norma Rupard, Annie Brown, Julia Bassett, Bob Phipps, and Deane Childress. A private awards luncheon was held Monday, May 1, 2017, at Winner’s Circle with the Ashe County Commissioners and County Manager. Volunteers received a framed certificate, a thank you letter from Governor Roy Cooper, and a lapel pin. Our appreciation to each of you for always going that extra mile!

Volunteers Needed

Ashe Services for Aging is in search of volunteers to help with clerical duties and someone to help in our exercise room.

We are looking for individuals who are courteous, friendly, and those who are advocates for seniors. Our Clerical volunteer will greet and direct visitors, answer and direct phone calls and perform some recordkeeping duties. In our exercise room, our volunteer we are looking for someone who knows their way around exercise equipment and can show others how to use the equipment. Make sure they stay hydrated and provide a safe environment for our seniors.

Volunteers give about four hours per day. Individuals can give one day a week and up to five days a week if desired.

If you would like to volunteer or would like more information, please call Terri Hopkins, Ashe County Volunteer Coordinator, at (336) 246-4347.
Hospice Volunteers Needed

**What is Hospice?**

Hospice is a special way of caring for individuals who are in the final stage of their lives due to a terminal illness. Hospice focuses on palliative care and symptom management rather than curative care. It is our goal to make sure our patients are as comfortable as possible and provide as much quality to their lives as possible. We strive to meet each patient’s medical, emotional, psychological, social and spiritual needs.

**What is a Volunteer?**

Volunteers are truly the Heart of Hospice. They provide support to the patient and their families in many ways.

- Home visits, friendship, companionship
- Reading aloud, playing cards
- Respite for primary care giver
- Running errands or helping with Chores
- Listening

**Other ways to Volunteer**

- Covering the phones
- Making copies
- Filing
- Preparing newsletter mailings
- Sending bereavement mailings
- Public speaking in the community

There is so many ways in which you can help. If you have a caring and compassionate heart and want to be a help to others, then Hospice is a perfect way. If you are interested in becoming a Hospice volunteer, please call or email Jennifer Richardson to sign up today.

Jennifer Richardson
Hospice Volunteer Coordinator
jrichardson@msa-corp.com, 336-246-6443

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Ashe County Habitat for Humanity is seeking volunteers. We have many ways to get involved. Volunteering on the construction site is a terrific way to really see our mission in action, and to see the fruits of your labor at the end of the day. We welcome volunteers of any or no skill level who are over the age of 16. Volunteers age 16 and 17 must have a signed youth waiver in order to volunteer. We generally work on Saturdays 9am-3pm and lunch is provided. You don’t have to swing a hammer to be an essential part of our work! We welcome volunteers to help out with our monthly, one-day Restores and other fundraising events or join one of our committees. To find out more or to see when our next work day at the site will be, contact us at:

Office Ph.: 336-846-2525 or Email: info@ashehabitat.org / Website: Ashehabitat.org / or find us and like us on Facebook. *Come check us out at our new resale store, located at 127 Beaver Creek School Road, West Jefferson, NC 28694.*
The 31st annual Christmas in July Festival opened Friday evening, June 30 at 3 pm with music, a street dance, and festival food at 5 p.m. to start off a weekend full of family fun. The Opening Ceremonies at 5:45 offered the presentation of colors, the National Anthem sung by Aubreanna Lovell, words of welcome, and a visit from Santa Claus himself! Festivities continued on Saturday, July 1st from 9am-7pm. Original, unique, hand crafted art and crafts was available from 100 vendors on Main Street and College Avenue. The Backstreet featured more crafts and our “Non-Profit Row” with samplings of the many organizations and agencies working in Ashe County. No festival would be complete without food and our Christmas in July promised a full selection of food options ranging from Asian, Greek, barbecue, sausages, and burgers to the traditional funnel cake, bloomin’ onion, and Poppin’ John’s ice cream.

The Farmers Market was open on Friday Night and Saturday, Civil War Re-enactors offered a full schedule of activities in the Town Park and on the streets, the Arts Council offered Creation Station for children’s arts activities, with St. Nick who made an appearance on Saturday and festival-goers enjoyed the roving street performances by Stilt walker Mark Lippard, the Magician Professor Whizzpop, the Interactive Theatre of Jef, and the Balloon Lady. The Main Stage featured the best of local and regional traditional music with a new band each hour, and the Community Stage featured dance presentations by local dance schools and the Junior Appalachian Musicians (JAM) Program.

Special thanks go to this year’s corporate sponsors who made this event possible and to the many, many volunteers who worked hard all year long to plan and implement the Christmas in July Festival. For more information and a completed schedule of events, check out the website at www.christmasinjuly.info.

WANT TO GET INVOLVED IN YOUR COMMUNITY? CONSIDER THESE UPCOMING EVENTS AND CALL TODAY:

Volunteer Fair at Ashe County High School (Date yet to be determined by ACHS)
2017 Buddy Walk of the High Country (September 9 at Ashe County High School)
The Canned Food Drive ( Begins in October)
National “Make a Difference Day” (October 28)
The Children’s Christmas Project (December)