



## **Excellence in Volunteerism 2020 Employee Award Winners**

and chosen non-profit organizations receiving a \$1,000 grant

*To help support organizations during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Corning Incorporated Foundation temporarily waived the guideline that an organization cannot receive an Excellence in Volunteerism grant two years in a row. This requirement will be reinstated for the 2021 grant program. Find full criteria at [www.CorningFoundation.org](http://www.CorningFoundation.org) under How We Give.*

The Excellence in Volunteerism program, started in 2019, is a U.S. Corning employee program. The program is designed to recognize Corning employees who help make Corning communities vibrant by volunteering their free time at non-profit organizations. The Excellence in Volunteerism Grant allows employees to nominate other employees showing exceptional volunteer commitment in the community. This year 55 employees will be able to award a \$1,000 grant to an eligible non-profit organization of their choice.

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### ***Nicole Bain, Corning Research & Development Center, Corning, NY***

*Nominated by: Stephen Miller, Staff Sector, Corning, NY*

*Grant recipient: Crystal City River Rats, Corning, NY*

Swimming can be a life-saving skill, and Nicole Bain works tirelessly to ensure that more than 75 children in the Corning River Hawks swim club build their strength, self-discipline, and teamwork in and out of the water. As club president, Nicole organizes swim meets, practices, volunteer duties, and communications programs for the young swimmers in a safe, supportive, and encouraging environment. Many swimmers from the River Hawks go on to be successful competitive athletes at the high school level. “Nicole’s ongoing dedication to the club and board leadership has been nothing short of exceptional!” writes Stephen Miller.

### ***Anthony Bartone, Staff Sector, Corning, NY***

*Nominated by: Anthony Furstoss, Corning Research & Development Center, Corning, NY*

*Grant recipient: Corning-Painted Post School District, Boys’ Varsity Swim Team, Painted Post, NY*

Tony Bartone donates much of his free time during the fall and winter developing training programs for Corning High School swimming and diving teams. He works closely with coaches and provides technical feedback to swimmers at practices and meets, helping young athletes

constantly improve their performance. He is well-known for the positive connections he creates with students, motivating them to push themselves and build their character both in competition and in life. “His commitment to volunteering his time and knowledge has been a boon to the program, and the teams are very fortunate that he makes time to support their programs,” writes Anthony Furstoss.

***Eric Biribuze, Corning Research & Development Center, Corning, NY***

*Nominated by: Shandon Hart, Corning Research & Development Center, Corning, NY*

*Grant recipient: STELA, Inc., STEM Education and Leadership Workshops, Corning, NY*

Eric and Claudine Biribuze have helped support the recovery and new growth of Rwanda after genocide and the civil war of 1994. They organized other Corning scientists and community leaders to conduct STEM education workshops in 2019, attended by thousands of Rwandan youth, university students, and women. They are expanding the program this year, introducing a robotics program in Rwandan elementary schools and partnering with Corning-area FIRST Lego League teams. “Additionally, the Biribuzes are volunteering to coordinate a cultural day on Rwanda at the Alternative School of Math & Science in Corning to introduce the rich Rwandan culture to students and staff,” writes Shandon Hart.

***Brian Bolick, Corning Pharmaceutical Technologies, Hickory, NC***

*Nominated by: Brad Williams, Corning Optical Communications, Hickory, NC*

*Grant recipient: Safe Harbor Rescue Mission, Hickory, NC*

Brian Bolick donates his time and his talents to the Safe Harbor Rescue Mission. The non-profit provides a place for women and children to stay after a family crisis. Vocational programs help them begin to rebuild their lives. Brian supports Safe Harbor programs by collecting donated goods to be sold at the non-profit’s ReSource Warehouse thrift store. He built dressing rooms at the store so customers could try on clothing before purchase. “The money that is raised through sales is then used to help women and children during their time of need,” writes Brad Williams. “Safe Harbor wouldn’t be able to help the community like it does without the support of volunteers like Brian Bolick.”

***Amber Carey, Corning Gorilla Glass, Harrodsburg, KY***

*Nominated by: William Goodin, Corning Gorilla Glass, Harrodsburg, KY*

*Grant recipient: Christian Life Center of Harrodsburg, Harrodsburg, KY*

Amber Carey’s colleagues describe her as a “model example” of community service, always going the extra mile for creative activities to raise funds for United Way. She helps the Harrodsburg plant set up coat and food drives for the Salvation Army and is a regular bell-ringer during the holiday season to collect donations from passersby. Amber also takes the lead for the “Cookies with Santa” event at the plant every year. “I’ve seen her engaged at the local

senior citizen center, helping with wheelchair volleyball and serving lunch,” writes William Goodin. “She’s a huge reason these programs have as much success as they do!”

***Rylan Caseman, Corning Life Sciences, Oneonta, NY***

*Nominated by: Lindsey Zanzalari, Corning Life Sciences, Oneonta, NY*

*Grant recipient: Scouts BSA – Leatherstocking Council, Pack 91, Utica, NY*

Rylan Caseman has served as den leader for Pack 91 for the past three years. Many parents of the 20 children in the pack praise him for making a positive impact through his thoughtfulness and sincere care for their growth and engagement. His fellow leaders describe him as passionate, caring, and reliable. He has helped provide new STEM experiences for the young scouts. He also conducts trainings, organizes food collections, and creates partnerships with other community organizations. “Rylan is extremely humble about all the great work he does in community engagement,” writes Lindsey Zanzalari.

***Anastasia Castilone, Staff Sector, Corning, NY***

*Nominated by: Claire Warren Ginnan, Corning Gorilla Glass, Corning, NY*

*Grant recipient: Corning Comfort Care, Bampa’s House, Corning, NY*

Anastasia Castilone demonstrates her passion for volunteer service in many facets of Southern Tier life. As a member of the Corning Lions Club, she has been instrumental in organizing an annual Easter egg hunt, Sparkle of Christmas participation, and taking disabled patrons to events at Watkins Glen International. She has been active with Big Brothers Big Sisters and Meals on Wheels. She also helps run local Cub Scout troops with enthusiasm. “She uses her Corning Incorporated and community network to encourage others to be more active in the community, too,” writes Claire Warren Ginnan. “Her dedication and commitment are inspirational.”

***Brittany Bachelder, Corning Research & Development Center, Corning, NY***

*Nominated by: Alyssa Sebastian, Staff Sector, Corning, NY*

*Grant recipient: Planned Parenthood of Greater New York, Sexual Assault Resource Center, New York, NY*

Brittany Bachelder has helped bring better fire protection and public safety to her neighbors as a volunteer firefighter with the Painted Post Fire Department. Based on her deep understanding of hazardous waste, she has delivered training to other fire safety teams to help them prepare for hazardous material situations. She organized events to help Painted Post residents learn more about the fire department. “She spends countless hours each week at the station, preparing herself and her fellow members to protect and serve the Painted Post community. Her selflessness and dedication to her community is inspiring,” writes Alyssa Sebastian.

***Nate Christensen, Corning Research & Development Center, Santa Barbara, CA***

*Nominated by: Marco Scussat, Corning Research & Development Center, Santa Barbara, CA*

*Grant recipient: Dos Pueblos Little League, Goleta, CA*

A lifelong sports enthusiast, Nate Christensen shared his love of sports with his own children by becoming a coach of their youth baseball teams. Nate is now in his fourth year as coach with Dos Pueblos Little League. He upholds the league's ideals of good sportsmanship, honesty, loyalty, courage, and respect for authority, all aimed at helping children become well-adjusted and happy so they will become healthy and trustworthy citizens. More than 400 kids ages 4 through 14 play in this league. "Having played Little League himself when he was young, Nate remembers the positive impact his coaches had on him," writes Marco Scussat. "This, in addition to spending quality time with his kids, motivates him to be involved with the league each year."

***Chris Coffman, Corning Gorilla Glass, Harrodsburg, KY***

*Nominated by: Jerry Combs, Corning Gorilla Glass, Harrodsburg, KY*

*Grant recipient: Christian Life Center of Harrodsburg, Harrodsburg, KY*

Chris Coffman is generous with his time and energy, devoting hundreds of volunteer hours to many programs in the Harrodsburg community. Among the organizations that benefit from his work: March of Dimes, Big Brothers Big Sisters, American Diabetes Association, Relay for Life, United Way, and Salvation Army. Chris has also participated in events for Crime Stoppers and Rotary International. "Chris shows initiative, leadership, and dedication to the community in which he lives," writes Jerry Combs. "He has earned the respect of his peers and has become a role model in the Corning facility."

***John Czernikowski, Corning Life Sciences, Greater Boston Area, MA***

*Nominated by: Paul Seeto, Corning Life Sciences, Greater Boston Area, MA*

*Grant recipient: Tough Techs 151 Robotics, Parent Boosters, Nashua, NH*

John Czernikowski was inspired to become an engineer when he joined a FIRST Robotics as a high school student in New Jersey. Now he is a coach and mentor for future engineers through ToughTechs. Students on his team say he consistently demonstrates respectful consideration of opinions and ideas, heightening teamwork and inclusion. His positive attitude encourages students as they explore innovative solutions to robotics challenges, better preparing them for careers. "John has fostered a culture among the team that has elevated them to succeed in competition," writes Paul Seeto. "What better way is there to prepare a young mind for future success?"

**Anita Doran, Corning Optical Communications, Charlotte, NC**

*Nominated by: Kevin Sparks, Corning Optical Communications, Hickory, NC*

*Grant recipient: Hickory Museum of Art, Hickory, NC*

As a board member and volunteer at the Hickory Museum of Art, Anita Doran makes many positive things happen. She is a driving force in the museum's annual Auto Show fundraiser, celebrating design, creativity, and innovation. She brought Hickory area sixth graders to the museum for the "How Creativity Happens" exhibition, linking the experience to a curriculum on problem-solving, collaboration, and experimentation. A later exhibition focused on empathy and awareness of the creative process. The project helped inspire a new Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion program for Catawba County. "Anita is a wonder, and her impact is felt across the area," writes Kevin Sparks.

**Chris Durham, Corning Gorilla Glass, Harrodsburg, KY**

*Nominated by: Lori Burns, Corning Gorilla Glass, Harrodsburg, KY*

*Grant recipient: St. Dominic School, Physical Education and Arts Programs, Springfield, KY*

As a private organization, St. Dominic School relies on fundraising to provide students with extracurricular activities like gym, music, and art. Chris Durham helps bring those programs to life – and bring other enhancements to the St. Dominic community, too – through his active volunteer work. He organizes family movie nights, yard sales, and socials. He does landscape maintenance and serves as a "Knight Watch" safety monitor at school gatherings. He served as a basketball coach for students not yet old enough for official school teams. "His devotion to the school and the children shines through each time he volunteers," writes Lori Burns.

**Thomas Gavin, Corning Research & Development Center, Corning, NY**

*Nominated by: Tim Parker, Corning Advanced Optics, Fairport, NY*

*Grant recipient: Chemung Valley Soccer Association, Horseheads, NY*

Tom Gavin is a longtime contributor to the youth soccer program of Corning area. As league president in 2019, he led the expansion of field availability. He has coached youth soccer teams for the past seven years. The Chemung Valley Soccer Association serves up to 2,000 children and their families each year, providing a practical, lower-cost option to many youth sports that involved extensive travel. "Tom's commitment to the game and to teaching means the children walk away with skills they can continue to use throughout their life," writes Tim Parker.

***Robin Gee, Corning Optical Communications, Corning, NY***

*Nominated by: Terry Trank, Corning Optical Communications, Corning, NY*

*Grant recipient: Border Buddies Ministries, Elmira, NY*

The list of Robin Gee's community service activities is long and varied. Last year alone, she devoted more than 100 volunteer hours to the Potter's Hands Foundation, regularly staying overnight in a safe house for rescued sex trafficking victims. She volunteers at Food Bank of the Southern Tier and participated in Black History Month reading programs and Junior Achievement. She is active with Corning Professional Women's Forum, hosting children who attended programs at Corning. "She also facilitated a Christmas dinner at Forestview Manor home for the elderly and disabled," writes Terry Trank. "This was the eighth annual Christmas dinner she has organized at the manor."

***Grant Gildehaus, Corning Optical Communications, Charlotte, NC***

*Nominated by: Adam Weeks, Corning Optical Communications, Charlotte, NC*

*Grant recipient: Scouts BSA, Mecklenburg County Council, Troop 233, Charlotte, NC*

Grant Gildehaus is a key figure in the success of youth organizations in Charlotte. Both Y Guides and Scouts BSA are beneficiaries of his volunteer efforts. He leads a group of dad/daughter pairs for Y Guides and served on the local Y Guides board for four years. In scouting, he is Cubmaster for the largest pack in Mecklenburg County Council. As assistant district commissioner, he also helps other new units get off to a successful start. He helped form Troop 233, the first female Scouts BSA troop in the council. Since then, the troop has grown to include 35 youth participants and has been recognized both locally and nationally. "Grant is constantly teaching youth," writes Adam Weeks. "He is a committed volunteer and generously provides his time and talents, helping strengthen the community and improve lives."

***Patrick Gill, Corning Research & Development Center, Corning, NY***

*Nominated by: Heidi Szucs, Corning Research & Development Center, Corning, NY*

*Grant recipient: Catholic Charities of Chemung/Schuyler, Elmira, NY*

Anyone attending a Red Cross blood drive at Sullivan Park is likely to see Patrick Gill as he is donating blood, organizing snacks for other donors, or checking people in for appointments. His devotion to the American Red Cross has spanned 15 years, and he has donated more than 13 gallons of lifesaving blood over that time. Pat also serves as council member for the Town of Reading and has served St. Mary's of the Lake Roman Catholic Church as a finance counsel for many years. He organized a group of Habitat for Humanity volunteers to build a new home for a single mother with four children. "His love for the community and dedication to volunteering is unwavering," writes Heidi Szucs. "He is always first to raise a hand to help whenever and wherever it is needed."

***Kurt Groeger, Corning Gorilla Glass, Corning, NY***

*Nominated by: Cynthia Rosplock, Corning Research & Development Center, Corning, NY*

*Grant recipient: Friends of Camp Gorton, Corning, NY*

Kurt Groeger has helped transform Camp Gorton, a Scouts BSA camp on the shores of Waneta Lake. He founded Friends of Camp Gorton to raise funds for draining systems, roof repairs, and rebuilt foundations of camp buildings. He helped galvanize more than 23 organizations to donate time and resources to the project. As scoutmaster of Troop 61 in Corning, Kurt has also become a positive male role model for many boys who might otherwise find themselves in crisis. "I have witnessed firsthand the transformational effects Kurt's mentoring has had on boys who could have 'fallen through the cracks,'" writes Cynthia Rosplock. "Many of these young gentlemen, with Kurt's coaching, have turned themselves around and eventually made the rank of Eagle Scout."

***Laurie Haduck, Global Manufacturing, Staff Sector, Corning, NY***

*Nominated by: Nicolle Johnson, Staff Sector, Corning, NY*

*Grant recipient: Disabled American Veterans, Fort Worth, TX*

In support of U.S. military veterans, Laurie Haduck has devoted herself to both Corning's C-VETS organization and other community causes. As C-VETS adjutant, she took the lead to expand the organization's profile to the hourly workforce. She also coordinated a Veteran's Administration Christmas party and has earned the praise of Corning's leaders for helping every time the need arises. Laurie has also led hands-on training at local schools as a Junior Achievement volunteer. "She shares her professional and personal experiences and helps students see how they can achieve their dreams. She inspires a future generation," writes Nicolle Johnson.

***Joshua Haggerty, Corning Research & Development Center, Corning, NY***

*Nominated by: Donald Allen, Corning Research & Development Center, Corning, NY*

*Grant recipient: Salvation Army, Elmira, NY*

A longtime volunteer with Salvation Army, Josh Haggerty helps families in Chemung and Schuyler counties have a happy Christmas celebration. He creates food and toy baskets and works on the holiday fundraising campaign. In the weeks before Christmas, he puts in many extra volunteer hours making sure toys are distributed to almost 1,000 families. He also volunteers to make repairs at the Salvation Army's domestic violence shelter and he often staffs the canteen truck at community emergencies. "Josh has been spending a lot of time trying to help his community ever since I met him," writes Donald Allen. "He volunteers for the neediest in our community and tries his best to help them."

***Gary Hermansen, Corning Environmental Technologies, Corning, NY***

*Nominated by: Gregory Calkins, Corning Optical Communications, Corning, NY*

*Grant recipient: Southern Tioga Little League, Covington, PA*

Gary Hermansen is an integral part of every aspect of Southern Tioga Little League operations. Coaching, field maintenance, mowing, and running the scoreboards are all part of the duties Gary voluntarily takes on. He serves as announcer for the games, works at the concession stand, and even covers the infield when rain is forecast. He also is part of the board. "Gary spends many hours each evening during the spring season doing these things," writes Gregory Calkins.

***Brea Hirschfeld, Corning Research & Development Center, Corning, NY***

*Nominated by: Erika Stapleton, Corning Research & Development Center, Corning, NY*

*Grant recipient: Finger Lakes Regional Burn Association, Camp Courage, Fairport, NY*

Children with severe burns are able to participate in traditional summer recreational activities through Camp Courage. Brea Hirschfeld has volunteered at the camp for 20 years, supporting injured children and helping them participate in supportive social and educational activities as well as recreation. The program is free. Brea also participates in fundraising to help keep the program free for the young participants. As a burn survivor herself, Brea helps children practice telling their story – an important skill for navigating the world post-recovery. "Burns are life-long injuries," writes Erika Stapleton. "Brea is dedicated to creating a supportive 'burn family' where young survivors have adults with similar stories as role models."

***Kurt Hollasch, Corning Environmental Technologies, Corning, NY***

*Nominated by: Hank Jonas, Staff Sector, Corning, NY*

*Grant recipient: Corning-Painted Post Civic Music Association, Corning, NY*

Thanks to the efforts of Kurt Hollasch, the Corning-Painted Post Civic Music Association has increased its sponsorship revenues by more than 200% over the past five years. Kurt, a Civic Music board member, redesigned the non-profit's approach to fundraising and trained other board members on how to attract sponsors. Kurt frequently travels for Corning all over the world, but he remains vigilant about meeting his goals with Civic Music. "Having board members willing to roll up their sleeves and do detail work is key to our success," writes Hank Jonas. "Kurt unselfishly shares his knowledge, helping fill our talent pipeline with those who will step into his role in the future. He is a huge asset to our small but mighty board!"



***Douglas Jennings, Corning Research & Development Center, Corning, NY***

*Nominated by: Liping Smith, Corning Research & Development Center, Corning, NY*

*Grant recipient: Food Bank of the Southern Tier, Elmira, NY*

Doug Jennings is the volunteer head coach for the Corning Youth Hockey Association's Squirts team. He has a reputation for being well-organized and makes sure both parents and young players understand his expectations. As a result, they come to the ice with full attention, helping them grow both as individual players and as members of a team. Doug leads by example, and as a result, kids are proud to wear Corning Hurricanes jerseys at their games. "Volunteer coaches like Doug makes the kids thrive just like kids in the bigger cities," writes Liping Smith. "They are in good hands because of these volunteers!"

***Jennifer Jones, Staff Sector, Corning, NY***

*Nominated by: Rachel Renken, Staff Sector, Corning, NY*

*Grant recipient: Corning Meals on Wheels, Corning, NY*

The mother of two young boys, Jenn has found ways to ensure the quality of their early education and that of other children of working parents. She joined the board of Ready, Set, Grow, a nonprofit childcare center in Corning, in 2018. A year later, she became president of the board. She is using her position to make ongoing improvements to the childcare center, building its value as a resource to parents in the community. She also leads a new Employee Resource Group called Solo Parenting, dedicated to supporting employees on the journey of single parenthood. "Jennifer is passionate about education and supporting families in the Corning-Elmira community," writes Rachel Renken.

***Dhananjay Joshi, Corning Research & Development Center, Corning, NY***

*Nominated by: Andrew Kittleson, Corning Research & Development Center, Corning, NY*

*Grant recipient: Faith in Action Steuben County, Volunteer Caregivers Program, Hornell, NY*

Dhananjay (Jay) Joshi supports elderly citizens in the Corning-Bath-Hornell area by helping them live independently through Faith in Action. Jay volunteers for useful tasks like grocery shopping and medicine delivery that are difficult for some elderly people to do on their own, especially if they don't have family and friends nearby. Through these acts of service, Jay also provides a social connection to people who may otherwise have few visitors. "Through his commitment, he has given back to the community on a consistent basis," writes Andrew Kittleson. "He also feels he has received benefits by engaging with a part of his community he would otherwise not have had the opportunity to interact with."

**Everson Kalman, Corning Life Sciences, Oneonta, NY**

*Nominated by: Lindsey Zanzalari, Corning Life Sciences, Oneonta, NY*

*Grant recipient: American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, South Central New York Chapter, New York, NY*

Everson Kalman coordinates all the volunteers for the Oneonta chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. In this role, he develops and coordinates a wide variety of events and programs. Most notable is the “Out of the Darkness” overnight walk, in which volunteers walk throughout the night to raise awareness and funds for suicide prevention. The foundation supports research, survivor resources, and education programs and has the bold goal of a 20% suicide rate reduction by 2025. “Everson has a personal connection to the cause, which fuels his fire to participate more in the organization,” writes Lindsey Zanzalari. “He is an absolute joy to work with as an advocate for community engagement.”

**Matt Kempton, Corning Research & Development Center, Corning, NY**

*Nominated by: Christina Laskowski, Corning Research & Development Center, Corning, NY*

*Grant recipient: Family Service Society, Youth Mentoring Program, Corning, NY*

Matt Kempton is a steady, consistent supporter of a wide variety of community programs. He is active in middle school robotics programs and helps build the STEM infrastructure at the high school level. He led a popular rocketry program to raise funds for Tanglewood Nature Center. He has introduced Corning employees to cultural teambuilding experiences through Ithaca Dragon Boat races. United Way Day of Action, Habitat for Humanity, and many other organizations and events are all ways Matt makes a difference in his community. “I firmly believe the world needs more community programs – especially in STEM – and I celebrate Matt’s ongoing support of these programs,” writes Christina Laskowski.

**Eva Lamina, Corning Life Sciences, Greater Boston Area, MA**

*Nominated by: James Nesteruk, Corning Life Sciences, Greater Boston Area, MA*

*Grant recipient: Mustard Seed Communities, Nicaragua Site, Medfield, MA*

Eva Lamina has led many educational and community-service projects with Corning volunteer groups. She helped organize a program to showcase career opportunities in life sciences for local students. She also volunteered for the Tewksbury location’s “Kindness Connection,” taking gently used flowers from weddings and banquets and rearranging them into bouquets for nursing homes. Eva’s energies have extended beyond international borders, too. She took part in a volunteer mission team and worked to improve conditions at an orphanage in Nicaragua. “She has a strong history of volunteering to help others, and an unwavering positive spirit,” writes James Nesteruk.

**Kevin Logan, Corning Advanced Optics, Canton, NY**

*Nominated by: Mandie Mousaw, Corning Advanced Optics, Canton, NY*

*Grant recipient: Canton Minor Hockey Association, Canton, NY*

Kevin Logan has dedicated many years of service to the youth of Canton through the Canton Minor Hockey Association. In addition to his Board of Directors duties, he has served as head coach for both boys' and girls' teams. He is currently the head coach for the St. Lawrence Steel Squirt Major AA team. He is committed to providing his players with the opportunity to have fun on the ice while also teaching them valuable life lessons. "Through Kevin's guidance, he continually affirms the importance of commitment, self-discipline, and sportsmanship among his participants," writes Mandie Mousaw.

**Ashley Lomboy, Corning Optical Communications, Wilmington, NC**

*Nominated by: Rita Shauger, Staff Sector, Corning, NY*

*Grant recipient: Waccamaw Siouan Indian Tribe, STEM Studio, Bolton, NC*

Ashley Lomboy is an energetic and driven civil servant within the Waccamaw Siouan Indian Tribe. As part of the tribe's Pow Wow Committee, she helped revitalize tribal culture, provide cultural awareness, and raise funds to support the tribal community. She raised more than \$6,000 in sponsorships and brought in 1,000 local youth through 16 cultural workshops. She secured donations of hundreds of yards of fabric and five sewing machines for women within the tribe to sew traditional ribbon skirts. She has helped revitalize endangered tribal plants in a "healing garden." She also created a STEM Studio for Native Youth, helping build educational and career opportunities within the tribe. "Ashley brings vibrancy to a healing nation of people," writes Rita Shauger.

**Meghan Lyons, Corning Research & Development Center, Corning, NY**

*Nominated by: Kelly Hughes, Corning Research & Development Center, Corning, NY*

*Grant recipient: Food Bank of the Southern Tier, Elmira, NY*

Meghan Lyons loves animals and is an enthusiastic advocate for the Humane Society of Schuyler County. "Every night, she is walking the dogs and giving them the love and attention they deserve," writes Kelly Hughes. "She is selfless when it comes to the animals. The Human Society of Schuyler County is lucky to have her as a volunteer." Meghan also runs snack food drives and provides craft lessons at work, donating proceeds to the Humane Society.

***John Miles, Corning Optical Communications, Charlotte, NC***

*Nominated by: Anita Doran, Corning Optical Communications, Charlotte, NC*

*Grant recipient: Feeding America, COVID-19 Response Fund, Chicago, IL*

Boy Scouts of Catawba County area have a strong supporter in John Miles. As a troop leader, John devotes every Monday night to scout meetings and even more time to planning and executing weekend hikes and camping trips. He also arranges week-long trips to places with historical significance like Washington, DC; Charleston, SC; Virginia Beach, VA; and other locations. He has mentored several Eagle Scouts along the way. “John selflessly gives his time and considerable talent to scouting, even though his own children have all graduated out of Boy Scouts,” writes Anita Doran. “John is a shining example of volunteerism, serving as a role model and mentor for many youth.”

***Johannes Moll, Corning Research & Development Center, Corning, NY***

*Nominated by: William Wilson, Corning Advanced Optics, Corning, NY*

*Grant recipient: Seven Generations of Stewards, Corning, NY*

Johannes Moll is a board member of Seven Generations of Stewards, which supports Native Americans and makes Native American educational programs available to everyone. He volunteers many hours to plan and execute the annual Native Nations Festival, bringing 1,000 school children together to enjoy a wide variety of educational experiences. As a musician, Johannes has also volunteered to entertain at Big Flats Community Days, events for the Corning Chinese Association, and other festivals. He frequently provides his high-quality sound system to enhance the audience experience. “Johannes passionately believes in educating and entertaining community members, especially children,” writes William Wilson. “He is truly a selfless individual.”

***Felicia Murrill, Corning Optical Communications, Charlotte, NC***

*Nominated by: Melissa Schmidt, Corning Optical Communications, Charlotte, NC*

*Grant recipient: Habitat for Humanity of Orange County, Chapel Hill, NC*

Felicia Murrill is always looking for ways to help people improve their lives, and programs that promote diversity are close to her heart. Through various Employee Resource Groups at Corning and as a public-spirited individual, she has been an active volunteer at Habitat for Humanity, Hickory Community Theater, SALT Block Foundation, and the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System. She has volunteered or served on the boards of many other community and professional organizations, including the National Association of Black Accountants, Susan G. Komen Foundation, and Clark Atlanta University Alumni. “Felicia is more than willing to take her personal time to volunteer where she sees the need to impact lives in a positive way,” writes Melissa Schmidt. “She has a true giving heart.”

**Ray Nanni, Corning Optical Communications, Charlotte, NC**

*Nominated by: Elaine Reichrath, Corning Optical Communications, Charlotte, NC*

*Grant recipient: The Well Outreach, Spring Hill, TN*

The Well Outreach serves those in need in and around Spring Hill, TN, distributing food through an established food pantry and mobile food pantries. Ray Nanni and his family have been faithful volunteers at The Well for more than five years, driving two evenings a week to Spring Hill to help guests find the food they need and to join them in prayer. The organization recently secured a larger facility to accommodate the growing need in their community. Ray was selected to join the leadership board, helping the pantry transition to the new location. “The need to help people in his community has been overwhelming,” writes Elaine Reichrath. “He and his family do so much to help overcome hunger.”

**Richard Nevins, Corning Optical Communications, Corning, NY**

*Nominated by: Liping Smith, Corning Research & Development Center, Corning, NY*

*Grant recipient: Corning Youth Hockey Association, Corning, NY*

Rich Nevins has a great positive impact on Corning-area youth through his work for the Corning Youth Hockey Association. His welcoming attitude as a volunteer coach is especially helpful to children whose families have moved to the Corning area from warmer climates. “It can be intimidating for a newcomer from the South to skate with kids who started hockey when they were 4 or 5 years old,” writes Liping Smith. “When my kids were trying to adapt to the cold weather by trying skating, Rich came across to my 10-year-old son practicing hockey by himself. He encouraged my son to join the youth team to have fun with kids in the community. Soon after, my son found out how great it was to be with a group of kids together. Coaches like Rich make them all thrive – life blooms even when water freezes!”

**Kaori Ohta, Corning Gorilla Glass, Harrodsburg, KY**

*Nominated by: Clifton Ross, Corning Gorilla Glass, Harrodsburg, KY*

*Grant recipient: Friends of the Danville-Boyle County Public Library, Danville, KY*

Kaori Ohta is passionate about helping others and improving her local community. For the past six years, she has volunteered as a tax preparer for United Way. She spends long Saturdays in the winter and early spring – driving nearly an hour each way – to help low-income residents file their federal and state taxes. “Without this service, many of them would either have to pay to file, or not file at all,” writes Clifton Ross. As part of this volunteer team, Kaori has helped create more than \$500,000 in economic impact to the four-county area of central Kentucky.

***Tonya Ott, Corning Advanced Optics, Canton, NY***

*Nominated by: William Ott, Corning Advanced Optics, Canton, NY*

*Grant recipient: Ogdensburg City School District, Pantry Program, Ogdensburg, NY*

Tonya Ott has volunteered with a plethora of Canton-area charities for many years. Her work with the Elks Club of Ogdensburg earned her Volunteer of the Year recognition in 2018. She also volunteers with local school food pantries and a non-profit children's theater group. "Tonya devotes all her free time to help children in our area," writes her husband, William Ott. "She does this not wanting anything besides knowing that children are taken care of. I am truly proud of everything she does."

***Michelle Peters, Corning Environmental Technologies, Corning, NY***

*Nominated by: Justin Thomas, Staff Sector, Corning, NY*

*Grant recipient: Corning Christian Academy, Corning, NY*

Michelle Peters' insight and drive for excellence has made her a valuable volunteer for the Corning Christian Academy. Michelle has served on the school's Board of Directors for the last five years, three of those years as treasurer. "She has taken an active role in ensuring that what the students at CCA are learning is not only equivalent to what is being taught in public schools, but that it is truly preparing students for their futures, specifically in math and science," writes William Ott. Michelle has been part of raising and distributing more than \$80,000 in financial aid, supporting at least one-quarter of the students at the private school. She identifies current trends in enrollment and income, identifying strategic budgeting to plan the school's future.

***Patti Pickles, Corning Research & Development Center, Corning, NY***

*Nominated by: Walter Ohl, Corning Environmental Technologies, Corning, NY*

*Grant recipient: Corning Meals on Wheels, Corning, NY*

Patti Pickles is a faithful Meals on Wheels volunteer, bringing hot meals and friendly smiles to homebound older adults in the greater Corning area. She donates her lunchtime to pick up hot meals and make deliveries to seniors' homes. The healthy meals support seniors' health, functionality, and their ability to remain independent. For many Meals on Wheels subscribers, Patti is often the only person they may see that day – and her cheerful warmth brings joy to many. "Thanks to her selflessness and spirited optimism, Patti is, to a great many frail older adults in our area, a ray of sunshine," writes Walter Ohl.

***Cynthia Rosplock, Corning Research & Development Center, Corning, NY***

*Nominated by: Christine Ziegenfus, Corning Research & Development Center, Corning, NY*

*Grant recipient: Scouts BSA, Five Rivers Council, Elmira, NY*

Cindy Rosplock's commitment to area youth, particularly girls, shines through with her work as scoutmaster for Troop 61G. The troop, organized just last year, gives girls an opportunity to develop skills through traditional scouting programs. Cindy has also led training workshops for other adult volunteers, helping them be more effective communicators, better resolve conflict, and achieve set goals. "Cindy has been key to engaging girls in Corning and the surrounding area, providing them with the opportunity to lead, achieve personal growth, and provide service back to their community," writes Christine Ziegenfus.

***Carol Rouhana, Corning Advanced Optics, Fairport, NY***

*Nominated by: Jue Wang, Corning Advanced Optics, Fairport, NY*

*Grant recipient: Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, Youth Orchestra Program, Rochester, NY*

When Carol Rouhana's daughter joined the Rochester Philharmonic Youth Orchestra as a violinist two years ago, Carol immediately signed up to volunteer. The organization gives about 100 students in middle school and high school the chance to study and perform symphonic masterworks. Volunteers are essential for running program logistics. Carol chaperoned the group's five-day trip to Washington, D.C. earlier this year. She also organizes snacks for rehearsals and helped oversee a retreat. As an advocate for this community music program, Carol "helps encourage, inspire, and guide young musicians to a high level of musical achievement and fulfillment," writes Jue Wang.

***Marco Scussat, Corning Research & Development Center, Santa Barbara, CA***

*Nominated by: Nate Christensen, Corning Research & Development Center, Santa Barbara, CA*

*Grant recipient: Santa Barbara Unified School District, Santa Barbara, CA*

Marco Scussat's fascination with sailing inspired him to become part of the Santa Barbara Sea Shell Association, a family organization fostering healthy, independent children by encouraging youth sailing skills. The non-profit's programs help families spend fun and enriching days together by the ocean, building lifetime friendships with other families. He has been a board member for more than five years, serving as Commodore in 2016. He spends many Sundays on the beach, teaching youngsters how to sail or operating one of the association's safety boats. "Year after year, Marco has invested a huge portion of his spare time and energy to support this organization," writes Nate Christensen. "His active participation is critical to the success of the program."

***Joey Simmons, Corning Optical Communications, Winston-Salem, NC***

*Nominated by: Sammy Johnson, Corning Optical Communications, Winston-Salem, NC*

*Grant recipient: Surry County Schools, East Surry Marching Band, Pilot Mountain, NC*

Marching bands are a rousing element of any high school football game, and Joey Simmons makes certain East Surry High School games have that musical flair. He has spent countless hours transporting the school's marching band to all football games. He also constructs props for band performances and helps the young musicians compete successfully at numerous competitions. "Joey's dedication and many volunteer hours has made the band one of the best in North Carolina," writes Sammy Johnson. "It is great to know Corning employees like Joey help the community in many ways."

***Denise Stevens, Corning Life Sciences, Kennebunk, ME***

*Nominated by: Melissa Wilson, Corning Life Sciences, Kennebunk, ME*

*Grant recipient: Kennebunk Historical Society, Kennebunk, ME*

Working primarily behind the scenes, Denise Stevens helps bring the history of Kennebunk to life for visitors and local residents alike. She helps prepare the town's historic Nott House for celebrations, galas, and teas, managing every detail – even cooking and baking refreshments. She creates intricate costumes for historical re-enactments, and she helps staff the Nott House gift shop, too. "She has even started giving presentations to educate the public, most recently on the history of sewing," writes Melissa Wilson. "Denise devotes many hours to ensuring that the historical society is a continued success."

***Ryan Sutton, Corning Research & Development Center, Corning, NY***

*Nominated by: Madeline Horn, Corning Gorilla Glass, Corning, NY*

*Grant recipient: Notre Dame High School, FIRST Robotics Team 3799, Elmira, NY*

For more than eight years, Ryan Sutton has mentored young students as they learn about engineering, technology, and science while building leadership and social skills. During the six-week FIRST Robotics season and at other times of the year, Ryan puts in hundreds of volunteer hours to help students plan and build a robot from scratch. Along the way, they do coding, overcome challenges, and work as a team as they learn a hands-on approach to science and technology. "Because of Ryan, dozens of high school students have gone on to pursue STEM fields in college," writes Madeline Horn. "He is passionate about this program."



***Jerry Swift, Corning Gorilla Glass, Harrodsburg, KY***

*Nominated by: Shawn Markham, Corning Gorilla Glass, Harrodsburg, KY*

*Grant recipient: Danville-Boyle County Senior Citizens, Meals Program, Danville, KY*

Senior citizens in Danville have new opportunities to stay fit and socialize, thanks to the volunteer energy of Jerry Swift. Jerry has mobilized other employees to support the Senior Citizens Center of Danville with chair volleyball games. He schedules them for late afternoon so he and other volunteers can visit the center – 20 miles from the Harrodsburg plant – without interrupting the workday. “Chair volleyball is a great way to increase movement and cognitive skills, and people of all ages enjoy it,” writes Shawn Markham. “This innovative solution enables us to engage with the broader community where our employees live, while minimizing time away from work during the day.”

***Nancy Thomas, Corning Optical Communications, Winston-Salem, NC***

*Nominated by: Ophelia (Opie) Moore, Corning Optical Communications, Winston-Salem, NC*

*Grant recipient: Habitat for Humanity of Forsyth County, Winston-Salem, NC*

Nancy is well-known for her leadership in supporting projects at the Winston-Salem plant, and she brings her leadership to community volunteerism as well. She organizes teams to build Habitat for Humanity homes and volunteers for food drives to support Second Harvest Food Bank. She also assists with a school supply drive for children in Forsyth County and takes food to homeless shelters. “Whenever someone asks about doing something for the community, Nancy is one of the first people to volunteer to help,” writes Opie Moore.

***Patrick VanZile, Corning Research & Development Center, Corning, NY***

*Nominated by: Nathanael Craige, Corning Research & Development Center, Corning, NY*

*Grant recipient: Friends of Camp Gorton, Grounds Maintenance, Corning, NY*

Patrick VanZile and his wife, Crystal, have helped many local youths and their families enjoy the fulfilling experience of Cub Scouts. As leaders of Pack 42, the VanZiles helped ensure that meetings and events ran smoothly. They arranged for presentations, supplies, and complex logistics of fundraising activities. The pack meets at Campbell United Methodist Church, where the couple is also active. “Patrick was like a second father to my son and many others. He was always available for any of the scouts and parents all of the time,” writes Nathanael Craige. “He took time out of his life to help so many kids in the area. He is always helping.”

***Caitlin Vinopal, Manufacturing, Staff Sector, Corning, NY***

*Nominated by: Anthony Lawson, Corning Research & Development Center, Corning, NY*

*Grant recipient: Tanglewood Community Nature Center, Elmira, NY*

Caitlin Vinopal enthusiastically embraces many opportunities to serve the Corning-Elmira community. When she and some teammates volunteered for Habitat for Humanity, they spent six hours cleaning and repairing a home for a woman in need. Caitlin also volunteers at an animal shelter, helping take care of the pets before they are adopted. Between these projects and other volunteer programs, “Caitlin is continually involved with efforts to make her community a better place,” writes Anthony Lawson.

***Claire Warren Ginnan, Corning Gorilla Glass, Corning, NY***

*Nominated by: Anastasia Castilone, Staff Sector, Corning, NY*

*Grant recipient: Tanglewood Community Nature Center, Elmira, NY*

Claire Warren Ginnan brings her talents to a wide variety of community causes, excelling in connecting other volunteers with opportunities to make a lasting impact. Through several Employee Resource Groups, she helped expand the Black History Month Read-In program to serve more than 6,000 Corning-area students. As Area 44 Toastmasters director, she connected fellow Toastmasters with Food Bank of the Southern Tier, helping the non-profit build its speakers’ bureau. She made Christmas a joyful event for families and children in Elmira through the annual Christmas Magic event at Ernie Davis Community Center. “Claire is a strong advocate for her community and always looks for opportunities to involve and connect others to serve,” writes Anastasia Castilone.

***Timothy White, Corning Advanced Optics, Canton, NY***

*Nominated by: Jonathan Barney, Corning Advanced Optics, Canton, NY*

*Grant recipient: Edwards-Knox Central School District, Hermon, NY*

Biddy basketball reshapes the competitive sport to make it appropriate for very small children, and Tim White has been responsible for bringing the fun to kindergarteners through third graders at Edwards-Knox Central School. With equipment suited to their size, children learn fundamentals like dribbling, passing, and correct shooting form. “He has them work as a team and be respectful of others, keeping it fun so the kids want to stay in sports,” writes Jonathan Barney. “He helps the kids have positive outlook.” Tim also keeps the record books for other student basketball teams and helps raise funds by running the concession stand.

***Terri Williams, Corning Optical Communications, Concord, NC***

*Nominated by: Julie Davis, Corning Optical Communications, Concord, NC*

*Grant recipient: Union County Public Schools, Poplin Elementary, Monroe, NC*

Terri Williams' volunteer spirit is guided by a passion for local public schools. While working in Harrodsburg and later in Concord, she was an active classroom volunteer, reading to students and becoming involved in the PTA. She helped locate funding for STEM programs and regularly looks for opportunities to lend support in non-traditional ways. The Poplin Elementary PTA has recognized her work with an Outstanding Volunteer award. "She makes time around her busy work schedule to have an impact, supporting students and teachers," writes Julie Davis.

***Raymond Yee, Staff Sector, Corning, NY***

*Nominated by: Kameron Chambliss, Corning Gorilla Glass, Corning, NY*

*Grant recipient: Ithaca Area Ultimate Alliance, Community Support Fund, Ithaca, NY*

Character, fitness, and fun are all part of Ultimate Frisbee experience, and Raymond Yee is helping more and more people of all ages enjoy the sport. As a director of the Ithaca Area Ultimate Alliance from 2016 through 2020, Raymond led the formalization of the group's governance structure and helped it become a tax-exempt non-profit organization. The league has become the largest and best-organized Ultimate Frisbee group in the region, with three seasonal leagues and an after-school program for middle schoolers. "Raymond has also provided guidance to local college teams as well as new players experiencing the game for the first time," writes Kameron Chambliss.