



CORNING FOUNDATION

Excellence in Volunteerism

Excellence in Volunteerism 2021 Employee Award Winners

and chosen non-profit organizations for \$1,000 grants

The Excellence in Volunteerism program, started in 2019, is a U.S. Corning employee program administered by Corning Incorporated Foundation. The program recognizes Corning employees who help make Corning communities vibrant by volunteering their free time at non-profit organizations. The Excellence in Volunteerism Award allows employees to nominate other employees showing exceptional volunteer commitment in the community. The selected employees are able to designate a \$1,000 grant to an eligible non-profit organization of their choice.

In some cases, the selected employee's chosen non-profit received the Excellence in Volunteerism grant last year, so employees chose other eligible organizations they support -- not necessarily as volunteers -- to receive the grant.

Roderick Bell, Corning Optical Communications, Concord, NC

Nominated by Heather Avery, Corning Optical Communications, Concord, NC

Grant recipient: Port City Track Club, Wilmington, NC

During the difficult year of 2020, when communities scaled back many of their volunteer activities, Roderick Bell continued to pour his energies into serving the Wilmington and Concord areas. He coached young members of the Port City Track Club, "bringing youth closer through common interest and sportsmanship while instilling values of education and the importance of good behavior," writes Heather Avery. He also immersed himself in community clean-up efforts and programs to provide essential supplies to those affected by the pandemic, while also encouraging voter participation and rallying for social justice. "Rod Bell has made considerable contributions to his community," Heather writes.

John Betley, Corning Advanced Optics, Glendale, AZ

Nominated by Kevin Conrad, Corning Advanced Optics, Glendale AZ

Grant recipient: Vitalant, Tempe, AZ

As organizer and administrator of the Corning Advanced Optic plant's blood drives, John Betley helps bring blood donations to community members facing life-threatening illness and injury. He works with Vitalant, an independent non-profit blood services center, to inspire his colleagues in safely supplying blood for patient care and research. He also leads plant-wide collections for St. Mary's Food Bank, which helps feed hungry families in nine Arizona counties. "John does these tasks willingly and with a sense of selfless pride," writes Kevin Conrad. "He makes our community a better place."

Lori Burns, Corning Gorilla Glass, Harrodsburg, KY

Nominated by Chris Durham, Corning Gorilla Glass, Harrodsburg, KY

Grant recipient: To be determined

Lori Burns volunteers as treasurer of the St. Dominic School Parent-Teacher Organization in Springfield, west of Harrodsburg. She leads the organization in contributing school and classroom supplies, special technology, field trips, playground equipment, and fun events that help support teachers and students. Even with the difficulties of the COVID-19 era, Lori led the organization to meet their fundraising goals for the year. "She provides new ideas and truly cares about the well-being of the school and the kids," writes Chris Durham.

Greg Cacace, Corning Environmental Technologies, Corning, NY

Nominated by Stacie VanSkiver, Corning Environmental Technologies, Corning, NY

Grant recipient: Campbell-Savona Central School District, Campbell, NY

For the past 15 years, Greg Cacace has been a dedicated public servant as a member of the Campbell-Savona Central School District. He has helped lead the district through complex fiscal challenges, introducing diverse programs that have helped students to graduate ready for new careers or to advance to some of the top academic institutions in the country. His leadership helped the district quickly adjust to remote learning platforms and new safety protocols at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. "Greg has been a thoughtful and insightful leader throughout this process, always keeping in mind what is best for the students and taxpayers of the district," writes Stacie VanSkiver.

Jeanne Cavuoti, Corning Gorilla Glass, Corning, NY

Nominated by Scott Forester, Corning Gorilla Glass, Corning, NY

Grant recipient: Corning Community Food Pantry, Corning, NY

Jeanne Cavuoti is passionate about serving the Corning community, and her stalwart support of the Corning Community Food Pantry regularly inspires her colleagues. "She has a quiet leadership and doesn't promote the amount of time she invests in supporting the food pantry," writes Scott Forester. "However, she has made volunteerism a core tenet of her life and integral part of her character." Jeanne

volunteers each month at the Food Pantry and has recruited many co-workers to join her as well. “She is a great example of the type of person who makes our communities stronger and improves the lives of others,” Scott adds.

Donna Chapman, Staff Sector, Corning, NY

Nominated by Anastasia Castilone, Staff Sector, Corning, NY

Grant recipient: Guthrie Corning Cancer Center, Corning, NY

Causes that support children, families, nature, and public health are all important to Donna Chapman. She has served on the board of the Corning Children’s Center since 2014 and currently serves as board president. She is also a director at Tanglewood Nature Center & Museum, and she has a long history of volunteering with local food pantries. Cub Scouts, robotics programs, and the Guthrie Cancer Center are all beneficiaries of her volunteer energies, too. “She is always willing to help out when she can,” writes Anastasia Castilone, “whether it be on the board or selling popcorn door-to-door.”

Terry Cox, Corning Life Sciences, Salt Lake City, UT

Nominated by Melody Dunn, Corning Life Sciences, Salt Lake City, UT

Grant recipient: Ronald McDonald House, Salt Lake City, UT

Terry Cox keeps production molding machines running at the Salt Lake City plant during the week – but in his time off, he dons a green Mighty Morphin Power Ranger suit and entertains children at the local Ronald McDonald House. The visits bring hours of joy to families staying at the house while their children undergo medical treatment. “He helps ease their burdens and empowers the families by providing meaningful experiences and quality time together,” writes Melody Dunn. Terry also spearheads the plant’s “pop top” collection to raise funds for the Ronald McDonald House.

Greg Davis, Corning Optical Communications, Wilmington, NC

Nominated by Kenneth Kelmer, Corning Optical Communications, Wilmington, NC

Grant recipient: Port City Robotics, Wilmington, NC

Greg Davis generously volunteers his time coaching local students in robotics competitions. He coaches a middle school team that competes each fall. He was able to adjust meeting processes this past year to keep participants safe under COVID-19 restrictions. “The team was able to compete successfully and thrive even with the tough circumstances,” writes Ken Kelmer. “Giving students hope during bleak times takes a special kind of person.” Greg also mentors a high school robotics team, continuing to coach and encourage students as they build their engineering and problem-solving skills. “He is a tremendous source of knowledge and steadfastness,” Ken adds.

Jeff Domey, Corning Research & Development Center, Corning, NY

Nominated by Darlene Marino, Corning Research & Development Center, Corning, NY

Grant recipient: National Headache Foundation, Chicago, IL

As coach of the FIRST Robotics team at Notre Dame High School for the past decade, Jeff has mentored more than 100 students on engineering principles, problem-solving techniques, electronics, business, programming, and advanced robotics. He regularly takes teams to regional and national-level competitions, preparing local youth to grow into STEAM-related careers. Jeff is also an active leader in Scouts BSA. "He teaches the importance of leaving the environment better than when you found it, had has had an undeniable impact on the character of these young scouts," writes Darlene Marino.

Elisabeth (Libby) Dunn, Corning Optical Communications, Wilmington, NC

Nominated by Scott Frederick, Corning Optical Communications, Wilmington, NC

Grant recipient: Hope Recuperative Care, Wilmington, NC

Hope Recuperative Care opened its doors in early 2019, providing free, temporary care to patients who are medically ready to leave the hospital but have no home in which to recover. Libby Dunn was part of the organization's vision from the beginning. She helped paint and furnish the donated homes, covered evening volunteer shifts, and served on the board. Her efforts have helped guests recuperate in a dignified, home-like environment. They can also get home-cooked meals and support in transitioning toward more permanent housing. Through Libby's work, writes Scott Frederick, "many have ended the cycle of homelessness."

Elizabeth (Beth) Edwards, Corning Optical Communications, Winston-Salem, NC

Nominated by Opie Moore, Corning Optical Communications, Winston-Salem, NC

Grant recipient: Sisters Against Rare Cervical Cancers, Winston-Salem, NC

Beth Edwards is one of the Winston-Salem plant's most dedicated community volunteers. She works with Habitat for Humanity building houses, organizes the plant's "Give a Kid a Coat" campaign, rounds up eyeglasses to donate to the local Lions Club, and supports food drives. "She is a terrific leader for our volunteer efforts," writes Opie Moore. "She helps so many people in our community, all while promoting Corning. She always exhibits a true giving spirit, and she lives the Corning Values both professionally and personally."

Nicholas Ferratella, Corning Environmental Technologies, Corning, NY

Nominated by Geoffrey Steenberge, Corning Environmental Technologies, Corning, NY

Grant recipient: All Saints Academy, Corning, NY

Nick Ferratella has served for several years as chair of the All Saints Academy Advisory Committee. "He is an ambassador not only to school parents, but to the greater Corning and Southern Tier community as well," writes Geoffrey Steenberge. He has helped lead development efforts that have brought the school more than \$250,000 over the past four years. His efforts have helped the school purchase touchless

water fountains and other sanitation equipment, supporting safe operations during the global pandemic. Nick also volunteers as head coach of the All Saints Academy basketball team, “helping ASA students develop into community-minded young adults,” Geoffrey adds.

Vincent Ferretti, Corning Optical Communications, Charlotte, NC

Nominated by Steven Colby, Corning Optical Communications, Charlotte, NC

Grant recipient: Newton Depot Authority, Newton, NC

The transportation history of western North Carolina is on display at the Newton Depot Authority, and Vince Ferretti is helping make sure future generations will continue to enjoy and learn from it. Vince became president of the museum board just months before the COVID-19 pandemic hit the United States, forcing the museum to close for six months. Vince continued sustaining campaign and grant application efforts to secure funds for re-opening. Under strict safety protocols, he worked with a local convention center to hold two train shows, bringing in much-needed revenues and providing a COVID-compliant activity for the public. Meanwhile, he led bathroom renovations, a gift shop expansion, and additional exhibit construction. “His contributions have helped expand the appeal of the museum from both an entertainment and learning perspective,” writes Steven Colby.

Nicholas Gargano, Corning Environmental Technologies, Corning, NY

Nominated by Jessica Teribury, Corning Environmental Technologies, Corning, NY

Grant recipient: Erwin Valley Painted Post Cinderella Softball League, Painted Post, NY

Nick Gargano has been a dedicated supporter of Erwin Valley Painted Post Cinderella Softball League since 2014. He started as a coach and later served as a board member and league vice president. Even in the off-season, he spends countless hours each week assisting with winter workouts and indoor clinics. Field maintenance, concessions, and facility upkeep are all part of his routine, and he is often the first to arrive at the fields in the morning and the last to leave in the evening. “Even after his daughter stopped playing, he has kept volunteering,” writes Jessica Teribury. “He is around the fields as much or more than anyone because he enjoys being part of the community and seeing the players and families enjoy their time at the fields.”

Kathy Haywood, Corning Life Sciences, Manassas, VA

Nominated by George Turner, Corning Life Sciences, Manassas, VA

Grant recipient: Northern Virginia Family Service, Oakton, VA

After the Manassas facility joined Corning as part of an acquisition a decade ago, Kathy Haywood started a “Corning Cares” program, giving her colleagues an easy way to support Corning’s culture of community engagement. Kathy coordinates three events each quarter to engage employees with one another and with the larger community. Canned food drives, Habitat for Humanity events, and recreational activities to build camaraderie are all part of the strategy. In addition to leading Corning Cares programs, Kathy volunteers as an instructor for English as a Second Language classes in Prince William County. “Her

good-hearted nature is contagious and inspires Corning employees to be like-minded,” writes George Turner.

Michele Holbrook, Corning Optical Communications, Wilmington, NC

Nominated by David McBride, Corning Optical Communications, Wilmington, NC

Grant recipient: Carousel Center, Wilmington, NC

Since 2015, Michele has been active in board service with the New Hanover County Chamber of Commerce. She has held various committee roles and became board chair in early 2021. Her leadership experience at the Wilmington plant has helped the Chamber apply a sound, strategic vision for economic growth in the local region. While facing the challenges brought by the global pandemic, she has helped the Chamber focus on workforce development, infrastructure, and entrepreneurship. In 2021, Michele was also selected from a competitive slate of community leaders as a volunteer board member of New Hanover County Regional Medical Center. “Her work is contributing to a more flourishing business community and to the health and prosperity of all our residents,” writes David McBride.

Ivan Jubilee, Corning Pharmaceutical Technologies, Corning, NY

Nominated by Dawn White, Staff Sector, Corning, NY

Grant recipient: Steuben County Habitat for Humanity, Corning, NY

Many Corning-area people have gotten a new start in life as a result of Ivan Jubilee’s commitment to community service. Ivan has been on the Steuben County Habitat for Humanity board for 15 years, serving as president for two of those years. Through his leadership of Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity, he has raised significant scholarship funding for college students. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Ivan helped the Elmira-Corning NAACP change course to virtual programming, being a consistent source of technical support so the chapter’s community programs could continue. “Ivan is dedicated to volunteerism and he is truly making a difference in our local community, helping to ensure its vibrancy,” writes Dawn White.

Kenneth Kelmer, Corning Optical Communications, Wilmington, NC

Nominated by Gregory Davis, Corning Optical Communications, Wilmington, NC

Grant recipient: Port City Robotics, Wilmington, NC

Ken Kelmer brings excitement and enthusiasm to STEM education programs. A longtime volunteer with Science Olympiad programs at local schools, Ken also mentors the FIRST Robotics competition team "Wired Wizards," teaching students mechanical design and engineering process development. In June of 2020, he became the team coach. “Even with all of the challenges of the pandemic, Ken has focused on how to give the high school team members a worthwhile experience,” writes Gregory Davis. “Ken is a great example of how Corning employees can use their real-life knowledge and experience to teach the next generation.”

Martin Light, Corning Optical Communications, Charlotte, NC

Nominated by Sharon Milligan, Staff Sector, Charlotte, NC

Grant recipient: Hickory Choral Society, Hickory, NC

Marty Light brings joy to the Hickory area through his love of music. As a member of the Hickory Choral Society, he enjoyed gathering weekly with more than 100 other singers. When COVID-19 safety restrictions made in-person rehearsals impossible, he quickly learned to use multiple electronic devices and headphones to record audio and video tracks, assembling them into online performances. Marty lends his keyboard skills to provide music for Carolina Caring, a hospice and palliative care organization serving many families in Western North Carolina. At the end of 2020, Marty put his home recording skills to work and posted a new holiday musical selection to Soundcloud each day for 35 days. "He really helped to brighten up a COVID-challenged holiday season," writes Sharon Milligan.

Tiffany Lindstrom, Corning Optical Communications, Wilmington, NC

Nominated by Robert Trapp, Corning Optical Communications, Wilmington, NC

Grant recipient: University of NC at Wilmington designated for STEM SENC program, Wilmington, NC

Tiffany Lindstrom leads a Corning-sponsored program to recognize North Carolina STEM educators who inspire elementary, middle school, and high school students. She coordinates applications, recipient selection, and recognition. Tiffany is also on the board of STEM-Southeastern North Carolina (STEM-SENC), a regional effort by the University of North Carolina at Wilmington to provide networking and information-sharing among STEM educators. STEM-SENC connects educators with workshops, fellowship programs, and other events that will benefit young people studying math and science. "Tiffany is enabling educators in our region to inspire their students," writes Robert Trapp. "Maybe someday those students will be Corning employees, passing their passion on to the next generation."

Mandie Mousaw, Corning Advanced Optics, Canton, NY

Nominated by Kevin Logan, Corning Advanced Optics, Canton, NY

Grant recipient: Canton Central School District, Canton, NY

Mandie is an essential contributor to Canton Minor Hockey, which provides fitness, competition, and leadership opportunities to more than 300 youth hockey players in northern New York. She serves as vice president of the association, and she ensures all coaches have the proper USA hockey training credentials. She is also head coach of a highly successful girls' hockey team. Her passions extend beyond hockey, too -- she has been a coach and active leader for girls' lacrosse in the north country. "I've personally worked with Mandie on the Canton Minor Hockey board for the past few years, and her dedication to youth sports is inspiring to all who work with her," writes Kevin Logan.

Xiang-Dong Mi, Corning Research & Development Center, Corning, NY

Nominated by Ying Gao, Corning Research & Development Center, Corning, NY

Grant recipient: Chinese School of Rochester, Rochester, NY

Xiang-Dong Mi is a volunteer and board leader at the non-profit Chinese School of Rochester (CSR). The CSR serves up to 200 students, from kindergarten age through adults. People of all backgrounds benefit from the language and cultural programs at CSR. Xiang-Dong has participated in the daily operation of the school, organized special events like speech and writing contests, hosted a graduation ceremony, and identified candidates for key staff positions. “He learned from and consulted for the Corning Chinese School. He shared online learning and experiences, which was particularly valuable during this pandemic,” writes Ying Gao. “He ensures that CSR will continuously brighten and broaden the community as a sustainable volunteer organization.”

Laurence Morey, Corning Gorilla Glass, Corning, NY

Nominated by Ben Stevens, Corning Gorilla Glass, Corning, NY

Grant recipient: I Thirst International, Elmira, NY

Laurence Morey brings tremendous energy to many projects that serve people in need. In early 2020, he led a volunteer team to Nepal to distribute water filtration devices and build sustainable shelters for mountain families. Closer to home, he partners with Hope Church to operate a thriving food pantry, children’s activities, and entertainment at church and community events. As an accomplished musician, he also volunteers his performance and video production skills to support a wide variety of community projects. “Laurence always makes people smile as he shares a constant message of hope,” writes Ben Stevens. “He is a positive light through gloomy times.”

Evan Olson, Corning Research & Development Center, Corning, NY

Nominated by Nathaniel Wetmore, Corning Research & Development Center, Corning, NY

Grant recipient: Chemung County Library District, Elmira, NY

Protective equipment for healthcare workers was in short supply during the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic. Evan Olson, in close collaboration with several other employees, led a team of 3D printing experts to quickly produce face shields for local frontline workers. The team drew on community resources like the Chemung County Library Makerspace, Corning-based machine shop Tobey Co., and other partners to produce more than 2,000 face shields within a two-week period. “While manufacturing of PPE has caught up to the levels needed for the pandemic, some of the face shields produced are still being used by local area healthcare workers and some local businesses,” writes Nate Wetmore, who was also part of the effort.

Kevin Parker, Corning Optical Communications, Wilmington, NY

Nominated by Nathaniel Young, Corning Optical Communications, Wilmington, NC

Grant recipient: Family Promise of Lower Cape Fear, Wilmington, NC

Kevin Parker makes a difference in the lives of fellow Wilmington-area residents in many ways. He has represented Corning as a board member of the Cape Fear Area United Way for years, currently chairing the marketing committee. He also volunteers for Soul Surfers, an organization giving children with

disabilities the experience of surfing and being in the ocean. He helps honor military veterans through the Freedom Honor Flight program and each year supports a local family battling cancer through the Joe Moran Bucket Bash. "Kevin believes in giving of his time and abilities to help others, and also believes in making the community better for all," writes Nathaniel Young.

Irene Peterson, Corning Research & Development Center, Corning, NY

Nominated by Melissa Vernacotola, Corning Research & Development Center, Corning, NY

Grant recipient: Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes, Corning, NY

Irene is the secretary of the Cantata Singers of Elmira. The group has released a series of uplifting musical videos to entertain and comfort the community during the challenges of COVID-19. Irene is not only a singer, but she is also key to the administrative side of the organization, distributing bulk mailings about free concerts and entertainment at community sporting events. The singers are now recording a powerful series of songs by Black composers. "Music is such a source of inspiration, especially as we go through times like this difficult past year," writes Melissa Vernacotola. "Irene's efforts have helped many people find renewed strength through listening to the Cantata Singers."

Rebecca Reynolds, Corning Optical Communications, Charlotte, NC

Nominated by Lanie Crisp, Corning Optical Communications, Charlotte, NC

Grant recipient: Christ Classical Academy, Connelly Springs, NC

Rebecca Reynolds provides a loving, stable home for small children as they go through the foster care system. She also volunteers her time to help other foster parents and the homeless, working to gather donations to fill gaps when governmental funding falls short of family needs. She helps prepare packages to provide to other foster families. She also volunteers her time at a soup kitchen to help feed the homeless. "When she brings little babies into her home, she loves them unconditionally for as long as they are with her," writes Lanie Crisp. "She doesn't do these things for attention. She does this because she is a kind and loving person."

Mardochee Reveil, Corning Research & Development Center, Corning, NY

Nominated by Anthony Ngoma, Corning Research & Development Center, Corning, NY

Grant recipient: EMO-Haiti Incorporated, Ithaca, NY

Mardochee Reveil is helping to prepare Haiti's next generation for a technology-driven future. He founded the EMO-Haiti initiative in 2107. An annual educational and technology summit brings together educators, entrepreneurs, and government officials to trade ideas, a format that has had positive impact as schools relied on remote learning through the COVID-19 pandemic. EMO-Haiti also sponsors an annual robotics challenge, which aims to introduce Haitian students to computer programming in a fun and practical way. "Mardochee is extremely passionate about this life-changing cause, which he strongly believes will lift young people in Haiti out of poverty one student at a time," writes Anthony Ngoma.

Todd Rhyne, Corning Optical Communications, Hickory, NC

Nominated by Sudipta Saha, Corning Optical Communications, Hickory, NC

Grant recipient: Catawba Science Center, Hickory, NC

Todd has devoted many years of volunteer service to developing youth in the Hickory community and providing them with STEM opportunities. He has served as a leader in Scouts BSA for 15 years and has spent the last 10 years as scoutmaster for Troop 771. He is also on the planning and organization team for the Science Olympiad Hickory Regional tournament, held each spring at Catawba Valley Community College. Currently, Todd is a member of the board of directors for the Catawba Science Center, a science and technology museum providing STEM education in Catawba and 23 surrounding NC counties. "As vice president, Todd leads initiatives that plan, fund, and build themed exhibits at CSC to promote science-based programs that are fun, culturally inclusive, and educational," writes Sudipta Saha.

Matthew Ricci, Corning Environmental Technologies, Corning, NY

Nominated by Paul Sutton, Corning Gorilla Glass, Corning, NY

Grant recipient: Soaring Capital Soccer Club, Elmira, NY

Matt Ricci has been coaching soccer for many years for the Soaring Capital Soccer Club. Going above and beyond coaching, Matt joined the club's board of directors and has been driving to secure an indoor practice space at a manageable cost. This will provide 300 players an indoor turf surface on which to practice, especially during the winter months. Matt's efforts included scouting locations, securing legal arrangements, reviewing site engineering, ensuring local code compliance, and coordinating volunteer work parties. "Matt's tireless drive, dedication, and endless hours of work have resulted in an indoor facility with turf ready for soccer practice in the first quarter of 2021," writes Paul Sutton.

Season Richards, Staff Sector, Corning, NY

Nominated by Todd Walker, Staff Sector, Charlotte, NC

Grant recipient: CareFirst New York, Painted Post, NY

Season Richards and her entire family are longtime participants in almost every aspect of volunteer life in the Corning area. She takes the lead to coordinate many events within her various work groups at Corning. She and her family are active volunteers to support organizations like the Arctic League, United Way, area food banks, and countless annual community events. "I have known Season for more than 20 years," writes Todd Walker. "She and her family set a fantastic example for what it means to participate in and give back to the community in which we live."

Jie Song, Staff Sector, Corning, NY

Nominated by Liying Zhang, Corning Research & Development Center, Corning, NY

Grant recipient: Corning Chinese School, Painted Post, NY

Jie has brought her expertise in rigorous financial management to help support the Corning Chinese School. Serving as treasurer of the school committee, Jie has set school standards for payments, reimbursements, budgeting, and financial reporting. “With her high-quality maintenance, the organization transitioned to a more effective management structure in 2019,” writes Liying Zhang. In 2020, Jie and Victor Jin helped support a fundraising campaign to aid local community members dealing with COVID-19. “She delivers!” Liying adds. “Every financial sheet from her is accurate and of high quality.”

Geoffrey Steenberge, Staff Sector, Corning, NY

Nominated by Nicholas Ferratella, Corning Environmental Technologies, Corning, NY

Grant recipient: All Saints Academy, Corning, NY

Geoffrey Steenberge has helped lead All Saints Academy toward significant fundraising success, benefitting not only current students at the school, but also helping open its doors to more students in the future. As a school board member for almost five years, he has guided initiatives to include the 2020 Development Campaign and the annual Spring Gala. “His financial prowess and keen organizational skills have led to numerous fundraising successes,” writes Nicholas Ferratella. “Most importantly, his efforts have replenished need-based scholarship programs to ensure equal access across our community to a values-based education.”

Emily Steves, Staff Sector, Corning, NY

Nominated by Anna Giambrone, Staff Sector, Corning, NY

Grant recipient: Institute for Human Services designated for Girls on the Run program, Bath, NY

Emily Steves helps teach Corning-area girls about exploring their options and meeting their goals through her work with Girls on the Run. The organization uses a fun, experience-based curriculum to creatively integrate running and physical fitness with lessons to encourage positive emotional, social, mental, and physical development. Each program ends with a 5K run. “Emily works with the girls, helping them develop strategies and skills to navigate life experiences while helping them gain a better understanding of who they are and what is important to them,” writes Anna Giambrone. “She leads by example and helps them explore how they can positively connect with others to shape their communities and the world.”

Reina Sutphin, Corning Optical Communications, Concord, NC

Nominated by Preston Heartley, Corning Optical Communications, Concord, NC

Grant recipient: Digi-Bridge, Charlotte, NC

Reina Sutphin's colleagues at the Concord plant know they can always count on her enthusiastic participation in many volunteer activities. As a Make-A-Wish volunteer, she creatively addressed children's wishes in the COVID-19 era by creating videos – some of which featured fellow Corning employees dressed as Disney characters. She also coordinated joyful parades in front of their homes, complying with all pandemic safety protocols. She led a school supply collection drive, making a virtual donation platform available to colleagues as well as providing a safe process for physical donations. "Through her single-handed efforts, there were enough donated items to cover school supplies for at least three full classrooms worth of students," writes Preston Heartley.

Angel Tucker, Staff Sector, Corning, NY

Nominated by Melissa Gambol, Staff Sector, Corning, NY

Grant recipient: Southern Tier Library System, Corning, NY

Angel is longtime volunteer in many aspects of community life in Corning, NY. She has volunteered with the Chemung and Steuben County Meals on Wheels program, as well as Habitat for Humanity, for more than three decades. She has coordinated the Salvation Army "Angel Tree" and Family Service Society "Adopt a Family" programs at Corning headquarters during the holiday season. She is active at His Tabernacle Church, where she has served on the hospitality committee and as a volunteer teacher for nearly 20 years. "Those of us lucky enough to know Angel can't help but admire her dedication and happiness in serving others," writes Melissa Gambol. "We are all blessed by Angel's work in our community."

Kevin Wasson, Corning Environmental Technologies, Corning, NY

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

Grant recipient: Chemung Valley Montessori School, Elmira, NY

Kevin Wasson is the leader of the African-American Read-In of the Southern Tier of New York. He took on this role in 2018, coordinating about 100 volunteers to serve more than seven school systems in the region. Kevin uses a mix of project management skills, willingness to adapt, and a strong social network to keep volunteers and schools engaged and focused on basic learning concepts about courage and kindness. The pandemic provided a new challenge for the program. "Kevin redefined our approach," writes Claire Warren Ginnan. "We provided videos that teachers could use as stand-alone activities for remote lessons; or, they could expand on them for more in-depth discussion." The flexible videos allowed the Read-In program to reach additional schools and engage a wider pool of future volunteers in the community. "Kevin's commitment to the program takes year-round management and ingenuity," Claire adds.

Dawn White, Staff Sector, Corning, NY

Nominated by Millicent Ruffin, Staff Sector, Corning, NY

Grant recipient: John J. Jones Museum, Elmira, NY; Cosmopolitan Women's Club, Horseheads, NY

Dawn White has been the president of the Cosmopolitan Women's Club, a non-profit organization supporting educational opportunities for African-American youth, for 10 years. Under her leadership, the scholarship program has grown to provide more than 50 scholarships for African-American students across the Southern Tier. In 2020, Dawn spearheaded the Life After Graduation Workshop, a half-day program for high school seniors and their parents to explore future educational and trade opportunities. Dawn also recruits other African-American women to support networking and career opportunities, facilitating introductions that benefit local employers and workers alike. At Friendship Baptist Church, Dawn leads activities for veterans. She also volunteers to create online connections between members. "She was vital to church operations when COVID-19 caused the church to close its doors and depend on virtual fellowship to ensure members' mental health and physical safety," writes Millicent Ruffin. Dawn offers similar technical online support to the local NAACP.

Lynore Young, Corning Optical Communications, Wilmington, NC

Nominated by Jennifer Arnold, Corning Optical Communications, Wilmington, NC

Grant recipient: ROCAME, Wilmington, NC

Lynore Young is well-known in her workplace and her community as a person of strong character with creative ideas and the will to follow through. Her work at St. Luke AME Zion Church has helped build a strong and effective ministry. She helps interview local students applying to MIT. In other community service roles, she helps support mothers with young children and emphasizes leadership development and volunteer service. As part of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, she leads programs focused on literacy and STEM for women. She also assists high school students with the college admission process. "Lynore believes she is called to work with young people in her community," writes Jennifer Arnold. "She does so through various financial and volunteering opportunities in every aspect of her life."

Yi Zhang, Corning Research & Development Center, Corning, NY

Nominated by Liyang Zhang, Corning Research & Development Center, Corning, NY

Grant recipient: Corning Chinese School, Painted Post, NY

Yi (Xinxin) Zhang has had a profound effect on how the Corning Chinese School serves its members and the greater Corning Community. As secretary of the school committee, she has spent countless volunteer hours on communications, "work was that was hard but extremely important, especially with dynamic changes in the environment after COVID-19," writes Liyang Zhang. Xinxin took the lead with many prompt and accurate messages, emails, and calls to teachers and parents. With her work, CCS has been operating efficiently and effectively throughout the pandemic. "Xinxin has never hesitated to help parents with any questions about school, schedules, activity details," writes Liyang. "In addition, she has donated many hours to class activities, which improved the class quality at CCS."