



Pillars of Excellence Awards



*ACC's Community Organization and
Volunteer Service Awards 2017*

COMMUNITY SPIRIT

A Quarterly Publication of
Arkansas Community Correction

Volume 2 ~ Special Edition
Second Quarter 2017



FROM THE ACC DIRECTOR



Your job is tough. Hey, the whole profession is difficult. In corrections, we're supposed to take people who didn't quite make it in society and figure out ways to help them be successful the second time around. We're talking people who most likely failed in school, whose decision making skills are terrible and who never quite grasped the three Rs of adulthood...responsibility, respect and reality.

When I was at the Department of Correction, one of the inmate porters at the Central Office once said that he knew what went wrong for him. He had thought a lot about it since he had been locked up, and he finally had it all figured out. The problem wasn't him, he said, it was the law. Since he didn't have a gun or a knife and the victim didn't have any money, he should never have been charged with aggravated robbery, let alone convicted of it.

No gun, no knife, and no money, means no crime. You can follow that logic, right? It made perfect sense to him. It was his reality. Of course, the criminal justice system's reality was much different because it considered the fact that he had hit the victim with a bat and had stolen his phone and shoes.

Our job in corrections is to reroute his line of thinking. It's not okay to steal. And it's not okay to hit someone with a bat so he can lift their stuff... even if it's not cash that's being stolen. Correcting flawed thinking and errant behavior is never easy, which is why it takes a battalion of dedicated professionals to make it happen. In fact, it takes more people than ACC employs. But not more people than we have. Because we are blessed with hundreds of volunteers who fill in the gaps.

These volunteers extend our services way beyond our reach. They help with substance abuse education, literacy, life skills, personal finance, religious services, mentoring and probably a hundred other things. We depend on their help to get the job done. And time after time, they have come through for us. They do that every day. And they do it without pay. They serve for the greater good. So that lives can be turned around and families and communities made safer.

Not long ago, ACC held its second annual Pillar of Excellence Awards, which are presented to outstanding volunteers. This year, we presented 13 awards and we could have done ten times that many because the people who donate their time and energy to our efforts are so amazing. Many of them have been with us for years. Some drive long distances. Some put in hundreds of hours of service.

And all of them do it out of the goodness of their heart and a shared desire to help others. They are selfless, compassionate and caring.

One of the best songwriters of my generation, and probably any generation, was Harry Chapin, who was killed in a tragic car accident in 1981. Chapin was a master of lyrics, who composed Broadway productions and story songs. You've no doubt heard some of them. "Cat's in the Cradle," "Circle" and "Taxi" still get a lot of airplay. Outside of music, he was deeply involved with efforts to fight hunger and poverty. The Harry Chapin Foundation is still involved today.

To explain his deep commitment to others, Chapin said, "Our lives are to be used and thus to be lived as fully as possible, and truly it seems that we are never so alive as when we concern ourselves with other people."

ACC's dedicated volunteers know exactly what Chapin meant because they, too, concern themselves with other people. And we are so much better because they do.

Community Spirit Published Quarterly by Arkansas Community Correction

Asa Hutchinson, Governor
Sheila Sharp, Director
Kevin Murphy, Chief Deputy Director
Jerry Bradshaw, Deputy Director
James Banks, Deputy Director
Dina Tyler, Deputy Director
Chad Brown, Deputy Director

Board of Corrections Members

Benny Magness (Chair)
Dr. William "Dubs" Byers
John Felts
Senator Bobby Glover
Rev. Tyrone Broomfield
Buddy Chadick
Whitney Gass

Please send corrections/information
to:
Rhonda Sharp, Editor
via e-mail -
rhonda.sharp@arkansas.gov

TREATMENT VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

THE ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS PROGRAM AT OMEGA



(An individual or group that willingly offers unique expertise and services in the areas of substance abuse and mental health to offenders that assist with recovery and reintegration, helping them become productive and fulfilled members of their families and local communities.)

The Alcoholics Anonymous group working at ACC's Omega Technical Violator Center in Malvern has been providing supportive services to ACC Residents for more than nine years.

The group currently holds regular meetings on Monday and Friday evenings, but they are anticipating expanding their services to weekends to better accommodate the facility and residents' needs.

In 2016, this AA group provided more than 200 hours of volunteer services for our residents.

This group's volunteers help to reinforce the concepts of sobriety and right living as expressed in the foundation of our overall treatment protocols.

(Shown in the photo is Chaplain Curtis Wiggins of the Omega TVP receiving the award on AA's behalf.)

(Nominated by Omega TVP staff.)

FAITH BASED VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH - CABOT

(An organization that serves as a key consultant on matters of faith, promotes participation in the activities of an ACC residential facility or field services area office that enhances quality of life for offenders.)

This church group started a book ministry at a local ACC office beginning in September 2015. The ministry provides free children's books, Bibles and inspirational books for the offenders who report to the office on a regular basis.

They have contacted several other churches in the area promoting and letting others know about the ministry. They use this ministry to reach out to those in need of a way to let God into their lives.

Their lead volunteer has come into contact with several offenders while in the office delivering books who have thanked her for the books and provided positive feedback. As of this year, they have donated more than 2,000 books to the offenders at the Lonoke ACC office. The leader of this ministry has writing an article and sent it out to other churches in Arkansas who are in the area of other ACC offices. The article was titled "Ways to Help with ACC Ministry."

The members of this group also assisted ACC organize a Recovery Cook-out for National Recovery Month in September of last year. Not only does this group provide support and services for offenders at the Lonoke office, they have also provided lunch and handwritten thank you notes from members of the church for ACC staff to show their appreciation for their hard work. Additionally, this group provides special services during the holiday season.

(Nominated by Area 8 - Lonoke Parole & Probation staff.)



FAITH BASED VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

LINDA ROBERTSON - TEXARKANA



(An individual who serves as a key consultant on matters of faith, promotes participation in the activities of an ACC residential facility or field services area office that enhances quality of life for offenders.)

Linda Robertson started volunteering for an ACC Center in 2011 and has been consistently coming ever since.

Any time the Center is in need of a volunteer for a new project, she is always available and reliable and always answers the call.

She has volunteered in a number of capacities. She has taught Spiritual Development for the past five and half years; she has been a guest speaker at graduation and this past year she started teaching grief classes for the Correction Center's male population.

She has always been supportive and willing to assist our residents in their rehabilitation and reentry back into society.

(Nominated by Southwest Community Correction Center staff.)

EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

PAM WARREN - TEXARKANA



(An educational institution or individual educator who has shown notable efforts to technically train and educate offenders or residents by assisting with or providing a training program in an ACC residential facility or field services area office.)

Pam Warren has volunteered with the Southwest Community Correction Center for more than five years.

She is always dependable, efficient and punctual. In fact, staff note, they have never worked with a person who gives as much attention to detail as she does.

Also, her willingness to take on extra tasks like college courses has repeatedly impressed staff over the years.

She projects a warm, cheerful attitude to ACC staff and residents alike.

They have seen her resolve conflicts and handle other situation with remarkable patience.

She loves people, works hard, and always tries to lift the spirits of those around her.

Those characteristics represent all that is good in our agency and it is a pleasure to nominate her for educator of the year.

(Nominated by Southwest Community Correction Center staff.)

STUDENT VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

COURTNEY WILSON - FAYETTEVILLE



(An individual serving as a student or intern, who has shown exceptional commitment and ambition to learn new skills as well as demonstrated work behaviors that support ACC's core values.)

Courtney Wilson has worked as an intern through the mental health services of a local college since 2016.

She is finishing her master's degree in professional counseling and is currently a graduate assistant with the college.

She has conducted mental health intake assessments, provided individual mental health counseling for residents, and has developed and run a creative arts therapy group for several residents.

Her future goals are to find employment in the corrections field as this has been her specialty during her master's program.

Her concern, involvement, and desire to help the residents has not only benefited the residents but the program as well.

(Nominated by Northwest Community Correction Center staff.)

MENTOR OF THE YEAR

VIOLA VIOLET - HOT SPRINGS



(An individual who has demonstrated exceptional personal mentoring for a resident or offender. This can be through an informal relationship with an offender or group of offenders, in an ACC residential facility or area office.)

Someone once said there are no coincidences in life. In April 2016, Reentry staff received the name and contact information of an individual who was interested in becoming a mentor - Viola Violet.

When called, staff asked if she would be interested in becoming a mentor. She did not waste any time - sending in a completed application just four days later and immediately was scheduled to attend a mentor training in the area.

When told that she had to have at least two visits before she could check out her mentee, she, again did not waste any time - she visited her mentee that afternoon and the next day so she could take her to a Kairos meeting that Saturday.

Viola Violet and her mentee have a unique bond. About the same time her mentee was leaving the reentry facility, this individual lost her mother. Instead of focusing on her grief, she was concerned for her mentee and being able to provide the best support possible.

When you put others ahead of yourself, it speaks volumes. Even though she was suffering a tremendous loss, she had her mentee's best interest at heart. This relationship has continued to this day.

(Nominated by ACC Reentry staff.)

RETURNING VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

TINA FARLEY - SILOAM SPRINGS



(An individual who has completed a program at an ACC center and returned to mentor and/or assist residents or offenders with learning how to be successful in the community)

Tina Farley returned to the Northwest Arkansas Community Correction Center after completing her program at one of ACC's centers.

She has been well received by both the residents and staff.

She has established her own religious services and through her personal testimony and ability to communicate the love of God, she has touched the hearts of our residents.

She presents monthly worship services that are well attended by many of our residents. The number of residents continues to grow as they recognize that someone just like them has made a positive life change and found success.

We are blessed to have such a wonderful volunteer for our center and our residents.

(Nominated by Northwest Community Correction Center staff.)

OUTSTANDING CRIMINAL JUSTICE PARTNER

COLLEGE OF THE OUACHITAS ADULT EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

(Any university, law enforcement agency, and/or other criminal justice organization dedicated to supporting ACC and our mission of public safety while providing opportunity for individuals to change and become productive, law abiding citizens)

The Adult Education Department of the College of the Ouachitas in Malvern has provided numerous services since the opening of the Omega Center.

They provide educational instructors for enhancement of residents' successful transition to the community.

This organization is involved with not only our Center, but also a local reentry facility to provide access to assessments in conjunction with the local workforce center to help prepare individuals for jobs in the community.

They provide assessments in Basic Skills Components, Job Readiness, and WAGE for our residents.

They have gone over and above to help ensure our residents are prepared for life in the community upon release from the center.



(Nominated by Omega TVP staff.)

COMMUNITY PROVIDER OF THE YEAR

MARK MASSEY - CONWAY



(An organization which promotes positive transformation in residents or offenders serviced by ACC. The provider works tirelessly to create positive sustainable change in offenders in an ACC Residential facility or currently on probation or parole.)

Mark Massey is a licensed barber and owner of a barber-shop in Conway.

When ACC staff first met with him, they asked if he would be willing to donate his time and services once a week to cut hair for offenders in the Conway office.

Many offenders may obtain a job interview, but they are unable to afford a haircut to help present a professional appearance.

Mark Massey graciously agreed to donate his time each Monday to our offenders.

He comes every week, sets up his equipment, and cheerfully provides free grooming services to our offenders in need.

His cheerful attitude and willingness to give of his time and services is why he was nominated for Community Provider of the year.

(Nominated by Area 6 Parole & Probation staff.)

SHINING LIGHT

CHARLIE HILL - LITTLE ROCK



(An individual whose dedication and passion is an inspiration to their peers and the residents/offenders for whom they volunteer.)

Charlie Hill has spent the past four years bringing inspiration to the residents at the Central Arkansas Center in Little Rock and to his peers.

His talent for motivational speaking demonstrates his passion for God and his strong dedication to our residents.

His commitment to ACC, and more importantly to the residents, is a prime reason for this nomination.

The best way to describe his dedication is “Wow.”

Every time you turn around and every time the center holds an event, there he is.

Not only does he give up his free time to come and minister to the residents, but he takes off work to come speak to the residents whenever he is called upon.

In addition to his faithful ministry, he also helps bring a Christmas concert to the center each year.

He is like the Energizer bunny.

(Nominated by Central Arkansas Center staff.)

NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR

BRIAN SMITH - ARKADELPHIA



(An individual who began volunteering during the previous calendar year who has shown dedication and commitment to the mission of ACC.)

Brian Smith works with the TRIO Educational Opportunity Center at Henderson State University in Arkadelphia as an Education Specialist.

He has been helping the residents at the Southwest Center in Texarkana and the Omega TVP in Malvern since June 2016 and has assisted more than 350 residents with college applications, completing FAFSA applications, administering Accuplacer tests, and providing information on different colleges and programs.

He inspires and gives residents hope for a brighter future by helping them achieve their goals and continue their education.

He does all of this while working on his Master's degree and maintaining a 4.0 GPA. He has gone above and beyond the role of a volunteer as evidenced by him having a busy schedule with his graduate program, coaching, working full time, being a foster parent, and assisting the residents housed at the center whenever he is asked.

He always makes time to volunteer his time. He is truly an inspiring young man.

(Nominated by Southwest Community Correction Center staff.)

LONG-STANDING GOLD

REV. JOE WILKERSON - LITTLE ROCK



(An individual who has significantly contributed to a project or a number of projects throughout their time at ACC as a volunteer. He/she has shown passion and dedication for their volunteer efforts.)

Reverend Joe Wilkerson has spent more than a decade volunteering for ACC through which time he has gained the respect and admiration of both residents and staff.

He has spent those years bringing his fatherly wisdom to all. He has been the key figure in coordinating many projects between the church and the center. He brings the residents clothing when they are about to be released.

He helps with baptism services and brings food donations for the Community Chest.

At Christmas time he also brings gifts for the residents and helps plan the Christmas service. In the past, he has been called upon in emergency situations and he has always come through even with only a moment's notice.

His long standing commitment to our center in Little Rock has been demonstrated through his passion and dedication to serve others.

(Nominated by Central Arkansas Center staff.)

PILLAR OF EXCELLENCE

MELVIN BRADFORD - MALVERN



Melvin Bradford has been an involved in some form or another with ACC for nearly 12 years.

He has continued to serve the residents as a religious volunteer, even after his retirement.

He conducts daily Bible study groups and leads the Sunday morning worship service along with his wife each week.

He continues to provide encouragement and support not only to the residents of the center, but also to the other volunteers and those in Chaplain Services.

Not only does he volunteer his time, but he also donates materials and books for residents to use for their spiritual enrichment.

We are excited to honor this individual who has provided his time and talents to ACC for so many years.

(Nominated by Omega TVP staff.)

THE SPEAKERS

From left, counterclockwise -
Lauren Holloway speaking on her
successful reentry, Arkansas
Community Correction Assistant
Director for Reentry Carrie Williams,
Associate Minister at St. Mark
Baptist Church Reverend Maurice
Brooks, ACC Reentry Manager Patricia
Sims and ACC Director Sheila Sharp





THE GUEST SPEAKER

Fitzgerald Hill was selected as 13th President of the 132-year-old historically black Arkansas Baptist College (ABC) on February 1, 2006.

After leading the historical black college for 10 years, Dr. Hill stepped down to assume leadership roles as Executive Director of the Arkansas Baptist College Foundation and The Scott Ford Center for Leadership and Community Development. Hill was also charged to provide strategic leadership for the Derek Olivier Research Institute for the Prevention of Black-on-Black Violence.

In July of 2016, Governor Asa Hutchinson appointed the former college president to a seven year term on the State Board of Education.

Dr. Hill received degrees in Communications and Physical Education from Ouachita Baptist University (OBU) in 1987 where as a scholarship student-athlete, he earned All-Conference and All-American honors in the sport of football. Hill received a Master's degree in Student Personnel Services from Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, Louisiana where he served as a graduate assistant football coach during the 1988 football season.

In 1989, he served as a graduate assistant football coach for the Arkansas Razorbacks.

His coaching duties were interrupted when he was summoned to military duties in 1990. The veteran received the Bronze Star and Commendation Medal for services in Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

He served on the Razorback football coaching staff for five different head coaches (a period of 12 years). While serving as Assistant Head Football Coach, Recruiting Coordinator and Receivers Coach, he was selected to be the head coach of San Jose State University in December of 2000 and led the Spartans' program until December 31, 2004. In February 2005, Hill left the coaching profession and returned to OBU as Executive Director and Chief Fundraiser of the Opportunity Fund.

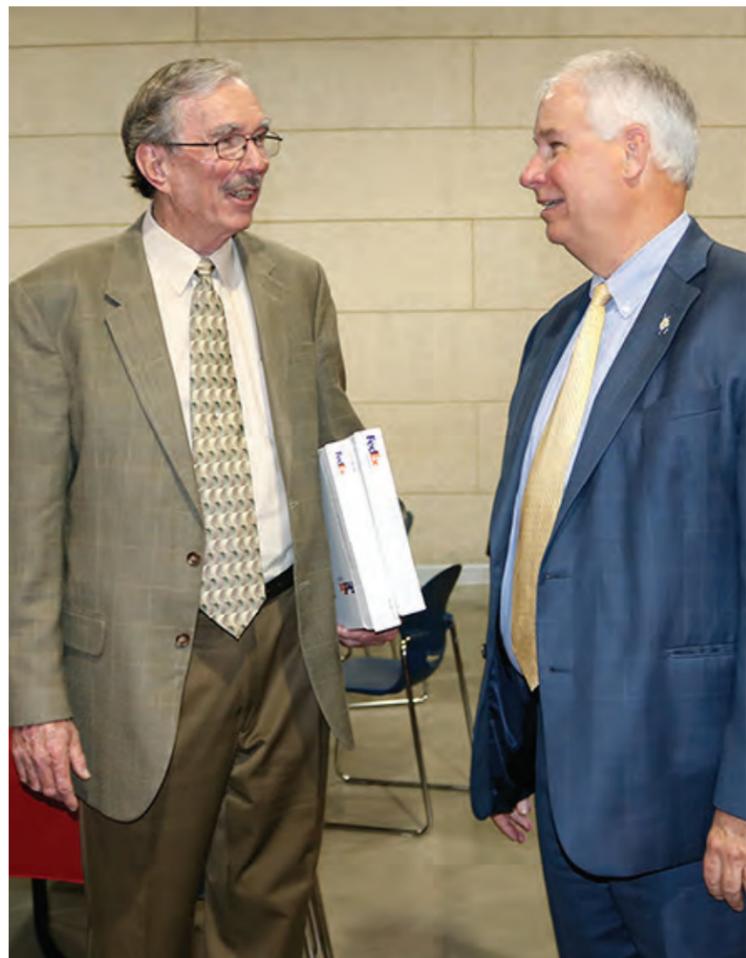
Upon stepping down as President of Arkansas Baptist College, the Board of Trustees awarded Dr. Hill Professoriate Academic Rank as well as named the newest constructed residential facility the Dr. O. Fitzgerald Hill Residence Hall in his honor.



GUESTS ENJOYING THE PILLARS OF EXCELLENCE BANQUET



GUESTS ENJOYING THE PILLARS OF EXCELLENCE BANQUET



GUESTS ENJOYING THE PILLARS OF EXCELLENCE BANQUET



GUESTS ENJOYING THE PILLARS OF EXCELLENCE BANQUET



GUESTS ENJOYING THE PILLARS OF EXCELLENCE BANQUET

