

**Item Title:** Recognition of 2016 #ONEWake Volunteer Recognition Awards Winners

**Specific Action Requested:**

**That the Board of Commissioners recognizes the winners of the 2016 #ONEWake Volunteer Recognition Awards.**

**Item Summary:**

Community volunteers are among Wake County's most valuable resources and are essential to support the operations of numerous County programs and services. These everyday heroes make a real and lasting impact on the lives of Wake County residents. Employees of Wake County Government also accomplish extraordinary things through volunteer service, and exemplify the County's commitment to serving others in communities throughout the County and beyond.

To promote a culture of volunteer service in which employee and citizen volunteers feel valued, encouraged and empowered to serve, the County launched the #ONEWake campaign in April. This integrated campaign utilizes a variety of outreach and education strategies to highlight the various ways that ONE person can make a real difference in their community in just in ONE hour or ONE Day. Through #ONEWake, the County is promoting opportunities for volunteers to support a variety of County programs and services, educating residents and employees on how to get involved, and recognizing those who do.

An integral component of the #ONEWake campaign is the Volunteer Recognition Awards Program, which aims to inspire, empower and recognize the community and employee volunteers who help make Wake County the best place to live, work, learn and play.

This year, 25 extraordinary volunteers were nominated in the Youth, Adult and Employee categories, and ten of those were selected as Outstanding Volunteers.

To be eligible for nomination, these individuals either volunteered service directly to a Wake County Government Department (e.g., parks, libraries, community service, animal shelter), or are a current Wake County employee who volunteered service to any organization within the past 12 months.

Each department is making plans to recognize their citizen and employee nominees, and the 2016 Outstanding Volunteers were recognized at a luncheon earlier today. In addition to their recognition by Wake County leadership, the 2016 Outstanding Volunteers may be qualify for nomination for the 2017 NC Governor's Service Awards.

**Attachments:**

1. List of 2016 #ONEWake Volunteer Recognition Awards Winners and Nominees