2026 Governor's Volunteer Service Award

Presented by

Jennifer Aviles
County Management

Summary

- Buncombe County began accepting nominations for the 2026 Governor’s Volunteer Service Award in November 2025. The Governor's Volunteer Service Award recognizes individuals, groups, and businesses with the true spirit of volunteerism.

- Through the years, the award has honored thousands who have shown concern and compassion for their neighbors by volunteering in their local community.

- In April, we received notice of Buncombe County’s winners, and we would like to take a moment to properly acknowledge our outstanding volunteers.

This year's Buncombe County Volunteer Service Awards go to...

FY26 Governor's Volunteer Winner

Lyndall Noyes-Brownwell

Friends of the Black Mountain Public Library

Lyndall has devoted countless hours to the Friends of the Black Mountain Public Library. Due to Lyndall's efforts, thousands of seeds have been shared over the past eight years, and after Tropical Storm Helene, Lyndall coordinated the distribution of nearly 500 free seed-starting packs. In four years, her service has generated more than $60,800 directly supporting the Black Mountain Public Library.

FY26 Governor's Volunteer Winner

Betsy White

National Alliance on Mental Illness Western Carolina (NAMI WC)

Betsy has provided devotion, support, and education to anyone affected by mental health in our community. She consistently shows up at the NAMI WC office, providing lived experience and qualified training to those seeking support. Even though the organization is fully staffed, there is still a sigh of relief at her entering through those doors.

FY26 Governor's Volunteer Winner

Kris Medic

Sand Hill Community Garden

Kris brings 40 years of experience in horticulture to her role as the volunteer garden manager of Sand Hill Community Garden. With the assistance of more than 70 volunteers, the garden donated 3,439 pounds of produce to two free local food markets in 2025.

FY26 Governor's Volunteer Winner

Anne Vilen

Pisgah Legal Services

Since 2022, Anne has been providing support to clients at Pisgah Legal Services by helping attorneys gather documents and information needed to submit requests. She has approached her many different roles at Pisgah Legal Services with an openness to learn anything new if it will help clients. She applies her sharp mind and refuses to give up on any situation, but most of all, she opens her heart. Pisgah Legal Services is so grateful that Anne chose to work with them, and their clients are better for it.