



RIFA's Volunteer Appreciation Brunch & Awards 2023

Presented by Cadence Bank

RIFA Rockstars: Honorable Mention

- TJ Swain: TJ has served faithfully in the Warehouse for nearly 2 years, as part of her LDS mission experience. She crated, organized, and packed SBP items—the seemingly unseen work that makes assembling SBPs a breeze. Always a smile on her face!
- Glen Vanderford: Glen is a Soup Kitchen regular, with a ready smile and a welcoming word! His presence in the Kitchen makes patrons and staff alike simply glad to be there.
- Ola Graham: Ms. Ola serves faithfully in the Thrift Store, giving great attention to detail as she sorts, inspects, and organizes donations.

Snack Backpack Award: Award to recognize people who make RIFA's biggest program possible so that children can have meals on the weekends

- Elvis Kelley & Pam Moore—Elvis and Pam have volunteered for years in the SBP program and have delivered thousands of Snack Backpacks to local schools in their lifetime. Their faithful service allows elementary students to have access to meals outside of school! A little known fact is that during COVID, when everything else was shut down (not RIFA—woot woot!), Elvis and Pam made sure that the children in our community would not go hungry. They made multiple trips, to and from RIFA, carrying SBPs to kids and families in need. Literally, thousands of bags. We're so grateful!

Pick Up Driver Award: Award for volunteers who drive all over the city to pick up food donations from local establishments

- Ed Martin—Ed is so consistent in serving RIFA by picking up food donations from Olive Garden regularly. His selflessness to pick up these donations allows patrons to enjoy a fun and exciting variety of food in the Soup Kitchen and Choice Pantry.

Warehouse Award: Award for people who help in various ways to keep the RIFA warehouse manageable and organized!

- Dana & Marti Mensi—Dana and Marti serve in different ministries in the RIFA warehouse like Snack Backpack and Senior Staples, and they also help sort and arrange food in the warehouse so that it is right where it needs to be! They are ready and willing to help anywhere, anytime, large or small groups.

Board Member Award: Award to recognize a member of RIFA's Board of Directors who has gone above and beyond in service

- Derick Tisdale—he is such a fervent supporter of RIFA and its mission, and he has done a great job of leading the board as president!

Senior Staples: Award for volunteers who help with RIFA's Senior Staples ministry, which provides thirty pounds of staple food items to food-insecure senior citizens each month.



- Charles & Linda Williams—faithful and cheerful volunteers who love getting to help provide food to these senior adults. Charles and Linda’s faithfulness and steady presence in this particular ministry is a blessing to all involved!

Special Projects Award: Award for a volunteer who has helped RIFA in unique ways.

- Danny Crossett—supports RIFA by organizing the Gold’s Gym/Fleet Feet Turkey Day 5K every Thanksgiving and donating the proceeds to RIFA. He also recently helped plan the Jackson Walk 5K that benefited RIFA! If you attend or participate in any event that involves running, walking, or a combination of both, Danny provides the knowledge and the awesome start/finish inflatable that makes crossing the finish line all the more fun!

Thrift Store Award: Award for volunteer who has provided tremendous help in RIFA’s Thrift Store

- Becky White—Becky serves, faithfully and tirelessly, in the Thrift Store for several hours multiple times each week, and she especially stepped up when the Thrift Store was in the midst of training new staff members. From stocking the shelves to pricing items, Becky does it all—and we’re so grateful!

Team Impact Award: Award for a team that has done great volunteer work at RIFA

- Hometowne Capital—Hometowne Capital has not only supported RIFA financially, but they have given of their most precious resource—time—in the form of organizing multiple volunteer groups to serve wherever needed. One of Hometowne’s core values is generous living—which translates to being generous with their time and talents. We’re thankful to be recipients of that generosity.

Driving Force Award: Award for volunteers who have taken initiative and been extra eager in serving at RIFA and encouraging others to serve

- Jan Baker—Jan organizes the Thursday night Soup Kitchen meals. She is always so welcoming, and she does a great job of directing new Soup Kitchen volunteers. Jan is a powerhouse—she cares deeply out our patrons, and meeting their needs. She has been so gracious to share her knowledge and insight with so many desiring to serve RIFA. Her spunk and enthusiasm are contagious!
- Shelley Pope—cares so much about what RIFA does and what it needs to operate on a daily basis, and she has shown a great sense of leadership in helping to guide volunteer groups when they come to RIFA. If you need something done, no matter what, she will make it happen!

Rev. Don Daniels Servant's Heart Award: Award for volunteers who demonstrate what it means to have the heart of a servant. These volunteers have a heart for putting others before themselves, and they show compassion in their service in the Soup Kitchen.

- Darold Halliburton—Darold volunteers in the Soup Kitchen almost every day, and he does an excellent job helping with whatever task needs to be done in the kitchen. He



makes people feel special by remembering them and their names. His smile lights up the kitchen!

- Steve Proctor—Steve is a great leader in the Soup Kitchen, and he is resourceful and knows what to do in urgent situations. Steve is our Soup Kitchen go-to person—our Soup Kitchen management team knows that they can call on him when a last-minute sub is needed. We are thankful for Steve’s resourcefulness and willingness to do whatever it takes.

David Hallock Volunteer of the Year Award: Award for a volunteer who serves consistently and faithfully and is willing to serve in all areas of RIFA.

- Rebecca Young—Rebecca is always willing to help wherever she is needed most that day! She serves in the warehouse to sort food, at the donation door, in the Thrift Store, in the Soup Kitchen, and in the Choice Food Pantry. She does not seek credit for her hard work and is always kind to anyone she encounters throughout the day while she serves. Her smile and infectious energy are a blessing to all.

Lifetime Achievement Award: Award for a volunteer who has made a meaningful impact on RIFA and the community through many years of service

- Richard Barlow—We are presenting the Lifetime Achievement Award to Richard Barlow in memoriam to recognize his more than a decade of volunteering at RIFA. He was such a regular that he and the staff would joke about him being a full-time employee at RIFA. He helped in so many ministries and special events, and he encouraged fellow volunteers with his great stories and just by being kind. Words can’t express how deeply moved we all are at RIFA that Richard chose to spend so many years serving here, but we’d like to give a small token of our appreciation to say thank you.