

TOMORROW NIGHT

CELEBRATING GREENVILLE'S PAST;
CREATING GREENVILLE'S FUTURE

HEROES Next Door

Celebrating Greenville's Unselfish Heart

In the worlds of volunteer work and civic leadership, recognition is rarely a motive or result of the hours spent helping individuals or promoting a cause. Volunteers often form the backbone of society, helping to improve the fabric of our community in ways that others rarely consider.

Greenville Forward would like to recognize three people who selflessly devote time and energy to making Greenville County a better place to live through our annual Heroes Next Door award. Winners will be announced at our "Tomorrow Night" event on the evening of Friday, November 5.

If you know of someone who deserves a little extra recognition, please submit your nomination and include in 200 words or less a description of why the person deserves this award.

My Hero

Name: _____

Organization Representing: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Attach a 200 word description with the reasons you believe the nominee is a hero. (Can be in the body of the email to us.)

Nominated by: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Deadline for Nominations is Monday, September 30th
Winners will be notified by October 15th.

Email nominations to kate@greenvilleforward.com or send to us at 14 Manly Street, Greenville, SC 29601



Friday, November 5th
7 to 11:00 pm
@ ZEN

For more information or to buy tickets to the event, call us at 864.233.8443.

HEROES Next Door

Winners 2009

Hasker Hudgens, Operation GO

Hasker Hudgens is the Director of Operation Greenville Outreach (Operation GO) at Redemption World Outreach. He works extensively with children, the impoverished, gangs and prison inmates. Hudgens is described as a true community resource because everything that he works to support directly impacts the Greenville community in a positive way. Redemption World Outreach describes Hudgens as someone "born to be a facilitator of city transformation."

In an interview with Hudgens, he said he is most proud of the LEAD Academy program. "Education is the key [to] breaking the cycle of poverty that we see in our innercity communities. I understand that making sure that children are properly educated will make a positive impact in all areas of their lives. With the establishment of LEAD Academy, we will be leaving a legacy by making sure that all children, regardless of socioeconomic status or life challenges, will have equal access to rigorous, college prep instruction in a caring environment of high academic expectations."

Lynn and Linda Tompkins, Triune Mercy Center

Lynn and Linda Tompkins have dedicated much of their married life to volunteering, most recently at the Triune Mercy Center. In their nomination letter, the author said, "When Lynn and Linda discovered Triune, it was our lucky day. When they asked what they could do, we showed them the drab room where Narcotics Anonymous had their meetings. They took the room and made it a beautiful space where folks can imagine turning their lives around."

Since they began this first project, Lynn became Triune's handyman and Linda took an abandoned third floor space and made it a children's room where parents can shop for clothes, diapers, and baby items. Linda calls it her rainbow room and said, "The excitement of coming to my rainbow room often keeps me up at night."

In an interview with Linda, she cited how the meaning of a poem called "The Dash" by Linda Ellis describes the importance of service. "What you do with the dash between the dates of a gravestone is what means the most. That is what it is all about."

The text about the winners appeared in the December 2009 edition of

Business Magazine
Greenville.

Norma Guzzardo, Safe Harbor

Norma Guzzardo began volunteering five years ago for Safe Harbor, a domestic violence relief agency program providing emergency shelter and support for victims. As a former teacher and principal, Guzzardo has worked with at-risk children throughout her 43 years in education.

Guzzardo noticed that adult clients received a welcome packet filled with essential items while away from their homes. Norma wanted each child who came with their mothers to Safe Harbor to feel this same sense of welcome and developed the "Kid's Cases" program. With the help of her granddaughter, Guzzardo sewed pillow cases and filled the cases with the donated gifts. Thanks to the vision of this project, each child receives a "Kid's Case" of their own filled with age-appropriate toys.

Guzzardo said, "Seeing changes in the lives of children is what makes me do what I do." When she was awarded the bronze hands of the Heroes Next Door award, Guzzardo said she told her granddaughter who assists in the project, "One of these hands is yours and the other is mine."



2008 Winners

Iris Minette, St. Mary's Food Kitchen

Adela Mendoza, ACCH

Tom Tiller, Friends of the Reedy

Bobby Caples, YouthBASE

