



The Myrtie Davis Lifetime Volunteer Servant Leadership Award

The Myrtie Davis Volunteer Servant Leadership Award was established in 2017 to honor a long-time volunteer for selfless commitment to Samaritan Ministries and our guests. The Award is meant to be an encouragement to all of us to act on the words of Jesus in Matthew 25. The Award should inspire others to give of their time, talents and resources to help the hungry and homeless of our community.

Myrtie Davis began volunteering at Samaritan Ministries in the Soup Kitchen in 1981 and served faithfully on the Monday team for over 20 years. The inspiration for her service comes from Jesus. She always puts Samaritan's guests first, serving with humility and empathy. She is known throughout the community as an intentional listener and prayer partner. Everything she does points to Christ. As a Soup Kitchen volunteer, Myrtie often filled the building with music. She was known to identify needs of mothers and children in the Soup Kitchen and return with those items the following week. Myrtie began volunteering to help homeless people when downtown churches opened their doors as shelters in the 1980s. When those churches founded Samaritan Inn in 1988, Myrtie continued her involvement. She joins volunteers from First Presbyterian through the overflow shelter and at Samaritan Inn multiple times a year. She is beloved by Samaritan guests, volunteers and staff.

Matthew 25:35-40 "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me. Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you.' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.' "

Criteria

The individual will have a long history of volunteering at Samaritan through the Soup Kitchen, Shelter or other programs. It is preferred that the volunteer will have served for 10 or more years. Consideration will be given to those who display multiple characteristics of a servant leader, including: viewing service to Samaritan as a calling, serving with humility, valuing Samaritan guests as children of God, showing empathy, being a good listener, and mentoring and encouraging others to volunteer.

Selection Process

A brief nomination form should be completed and submitted to the Executive Director by March 31, 2022. The Executive Director will make the selection in consultation with the management team. The award will be presented at the annual volunteer recognition event or at another appropriate event/location.

Award Recipients

2021 – Irma Jackson and Minnie Blakely

2020 – Elizabeth West

2019 – Emily Seawell

2018 – Myrtie Davis

