

2021 VSNC, Inc.

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

Award Winners

DESMEN BOYKIN, Montclair, Virginia



The completed masks by Desmen Boykin and Thomas Byrne.

- Created 3D face shields to help his sister who is a nurse
- Desmen & classmate worked together to print hundreds of 3D face shields
- Distributed 3D face shields to hospitals and organizations in VA, DE, and NY

COVID-19 has had a positive effect on Desmen Boykin and his drive to support his community. It started when Desmen became concerned over the lack of PPE in the hospital where his sister, a nurse worked. In a desire to relieve his own feelings of helplessness, he decided to reproduce the 3D face shields he had seen on the news.

With the help of his friend and classmate, Thomas Byrne, who was the head of their robotics team, Desmen and Thomas began printing, assembling, and shipping hundreds of 3D face shields to his sister and her colleagues. They saw the need and it did not stop there but began making 3D face shields for hospitals and organizations all over Virginia, Delaware, and New York City. This act was the catalyst that Desmen needed to inspire a community to begin numerous acts of kindness which included food drives and school supply drives for those seriously impacted by COVID-19, among other well needed services that were born out of the pandemic. We celebrate Desmen and his community for these heroic actions.

AMER BAYOUMI, Reston, Virginia



- A great asset to community from July 2020 until May 2021
- Helped unload food trucks / delivered food boxes to families
- A true motivation to his community

During this pandemic, Amer's efforts towards helping his community have been especially deserving of recognition. He has been a great asset in the community consistently from July of 2020 until May of 2021 and has given his best wherever there was a need. Amer's responsibilities included meeting the delivery van to help unload 75 boxes of 50-pound non-perishable food boxes; distribution of the food boxes; setting up the sign-in tables; passing

out masks to individuals who needed them; making social distancing markers; and even making home deliveries to residents. Amer made sure a food box always found a family or individual who could benefit from the resources. Amer has shown compassion, selflessness, and has always been motivated to help his community. We celebrate Amer and honor his efforts.

CARTIER CAREY, Hampton, Virginia



- Raised \$4,500 in donations from his lemonade stand
- Helped start Kids4Change757 which distributed over 120,000 diapers for needy families due to the pandemic
- Featured on Good Morning America, Live with Kelly and Ryan, ABC World News and recently The Steve Harvey Show

Cartier, then 11 years old (now 12) saw a need in his community and was inspired to help others to meet that need. Cartier noticed that there was a shortage of diapers, wipes and other baby items that parents needed for their babies due to the COVID-19 pandemic. So, Cartier talked to his parents and several community friends and started a lemonade stand with the sole purpose of raising money to help parents (especially single Moms) to supply them with the diapers, wipes, and items they needed for their babies. Over the course of the summer, instead of riding his bike or playing with his friends, Cartier raised \$4,500 in donations from his lemonade stand; was able to purchase diapers, wipes and other baby needs and distribute over 22,000 diapers

2021 VSNC, Inc.

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

Award Winners

in the summer of 2020. Through the organization that he helped start, Kids4Change757, Cartier and the organization has distributed over 120,000 diapers. Cartier has been featured on 'Good Morning America', 'Live with Kelly and Ryan', and 'ABC World News Tonight with David Muir', and most recently, 'The Steve Harvey Show'. When asked what he would say to encourage others, he said, "Others can make a difference just like I'm doing right now. They can save lives and be heroes, they're never too young." Cartier is living proof of that. What a great inspiration to us all!

JORDAN BELL, Roanoke, Virginia



- Created an historic documentary about the Gainsboro section of Roanoke
- Defined systemic racism and how government programs targeted prosperous black communities
- Paints a picture of what Henry Street, "Black Wall Street" was like in its heyday

Jordan Bell, a young man who grew up in Roanoke, created an excellent documentary about how Roanoke's urban renewal projects destroyed Black communities and businesses, especially in the Gainsboro section of Roanoke, Virginia. Jordan spent countless hours listening to the elders describe how Gainsboro used to be before "urban renewal." He defined systemic racism and illustrated how the government's projects targeted the prosperous Black communities. Gainsboro had the bright neon lights of a successful city like New York and Philadelphia. A black person did not have to leave Roanoke to find success or to attend a star-studded evening. The Gainsboro section of Roanoke, Virginia had its very own "Black Wall Street" called Henry Street. In this video, you will hear from Gainsboro's historian Jordan Bell as he helps paint a picture of what Henry Street was like in its heyday. Jordan's documentary looks back to Roanoke's African American history "to see who we are and who we can become. His film documentary titled, 'Gainsboro Revised' can be found on YouTube and is based on the local black history of Roanoke. Jordan's hope is, after watching the film or taking one of his historic tours, that the youth of the City of Roanoke will leave inspired to make a change and leave with a sense of pride, that that is the success he is looking for in creating this documentary. Jordan's work has been featured on local news stations in Roanoke and we celebrate Jordan for the time and energy that went into creating this very, important piece of history. Well done!

BUFFALOW FAMILY & FRIENDS, Chesapeake, Virginia



- BFF Outreach began in 2010 – serving for over 10 years
- Recognized and filled a need for a soup kitchen on Thanksgiving Day
- Provides healthy food and essential items to thousands of people
- Partners with neighborhood programs to help with clothing and school supplies for families in neighborhood

Buffalow Family and Friends (BFF) community outreach began in 2010 by Nischelle Buffalow and her mother, Delena Buffalow. They recognized that there were no soup kitchens open on Thanksgiving Day in their hometown of Chesapeake, Virginia, and decided that they would fill that void. That first year they prepared a feast and fed 25 people IN THEIR BACK YARD! The annual event has grown every year and, in addition to feeding the hundreds of people that now attend the dinner, they also deliver meals to elderly and shut-in citizens. In a year of pandemic outbreak, BFF has worked tirelessly to provide healthy food and essential items to thousands of people who otherwise have no means to purchase them. BFF has established working relationships with area businesses, civic organizations, and volunteers to obtain donations and make sure they get to the citizens that need them the most. One such business they partner with is Warm and Fuzzy, an outreach that provided coat giveaways and back to schoolbook bag giveaways, as well as warm scarves, mittens, and gloves to over

2021 VSNC, Inc.

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

Award Winners

250 families last year. What selfless acts Buffalowo Family and Friends have displayed which started with one thoughtful idea. We salute you for your over 10 years of kindness!

XAVIER DUCKETT, Roanoke, Virginia



- Living his “God Given purpose” to inspire with a humble spirit to give back to his community.
- The Humble Hustle Company remains true to its:
 - Vision – Teach Love
 - Mission – to empower Black Youth and connect diverse communities by creating innovative inclusive Spaces that inspire and promote giving
- What a force Xavier Duckett is! We celebrate Xavier as he continues to teach and empower

Xavier Duckett is enthusiastic about his community, Roanoke, VA. He pours passion into each day by living what he describes as “his God Given purpose” which is to inspire with a humble spirit to give back to his community. He serves as a collaborator, a creator, and a catalyst for change. He nurtures a culture of creativity and entrepreneurship for black youth who are not always encouraged to participate in their community. Xavier challenges them to expand beyond the limiting social expectations they experience. Xavier understands that, for the youth HOPE lives in seeing people who look like him overcome obstacles and achieve their dreams. He is the founder and CEO of several companies including Humble Hustle Company, a non-profit that serves hundreds of young people in the Roanoke Valley Area. He began the non-profit to provide resources in an innovative and creative way to the community. The project started with designing and producing T-shirts with one single message “KEEP GIVING.” Proceeds from the T-shirts & Hoodie sales began to help provide scholarships for young girls, exposing inner city youth to life-changing hikes, and supplying coats and backpacks for underprivileged youth in the community.