A LETTER FROM OUR CEO, KAREN STERK

Greetings -

April is Volunteer Appreciation Month.

Thank You Thank You Thank You for your service and support for JRF Scholars.

We call you the JRF Scholar Support Team. We deliver our mission with you. Our work works because of you. Thank You for being there for JRF Scholars every day. From the Board of Directors to the Volunteer Application Readers, to the STAR Party Volunteers, and Racial Justice Volunteers, know that your gift of your time is precious.

This year 198 of you volunteered as Application Readers. Each application that makes it to Level 3 has been read ten times. A GINORMOUS Thank You to all of our Volunteer Application Readers.

We are excited to announce that our Volunteer of the Year is Valerie Bell. Val is the Executive Director of the Athens Clarke County Library and has served on the Board of Directors for the past five years. Thank You Thank You Thank You Valerie!
Valerie Bell has been a member of the Jeannette Rankin Board of Directors since 2017. She is the Executive Director of Athens - Clarke County Library, a position she has held since 2015. Valerie’s inspired leadership was instrumental in the Athens Clarke County Library being named Georgia Library of the Year in 2018.

Valerie has been a volunteer on the planning committee for It’s Time to Talk: Forums on Race since the program originated in 2017. She has leveraged her leadership as the Co-Chair for four of those years. Valerie has stepped up as a partner in the racial justice work by providing funds from grants to support It’s Time to Talk. She has partnered with us providing in-kind support for the program via library space for training the Volunteer Racial Justice Facilitators (two years) as well as offering the first Beloved Community Dialogue (two years.)

In 2018, Valerie met Anna Scheytt, then the Dean of the UGA School of Social Work at It’s Time to Talk. Six months later, there was a $150,000 grant to provide trauma-informed care at the library by UGA Social Work students. At It’s Time to Talk this year, her team met team members from the Northeast Georgia Food Bank, and together they are working on a project called Food 2 Kids 360.

Her work in originating One Book Athens, and finding the financial support for the program is to be applauded. Rather than going it alone, Valerie engaged multiple Athens community stakeholders from faith organizations, community organizations, individuals, media, and UGA. It often was an exercise in “herding cats” but Valerie was dedicated to providing a collaborative community project that ended up serving hundreds of people. Val’s leadership brought forth an important community conversation about racism and its effects on individuals and communities.

Jeannette Rankin Foundation is grateful for Val’s leadership and support. Athens is truly blessed to have a leader of the caliber of Valerie Bell. Athens is a better place for SO many people because of Valerie Bell’s leadership.
J. MARIA WATERS

Our board members are instrumental to our work at the Jeannette Rankin Foundation. This National Volunteer Appreciation Month, we want to give a huge thank you to a new board member, J. Maria Waters! Currently serving as an in-house staff counsel for Progressive Group of Insurance Companies, she’s gained the respect of many in the law community. Her professional accolades are evenly matched by her thoughtful social contributions. Maria is also on the board of Coastal Children’s Advocacy Center. She’s vice co-chair of the Law School Orientation Subcommittee of the State Bar of Georgia Professionalism Committee and she’s a community investment volunteer for the United Way of the Coastal Empire, along with other organizations and state bar committees.

PEG OLSON

We are so excited to welcome the newest member of our board of directors, Peg Olson. Peg brings 20 years of recruiting expertise combined with an intuitive skill for assessing individual talent and organizational needs. She has conducted a multitude of searches for Chief Financial Officers, Chief Operating Officers, General Counsels, Human Resource Leaders, CIOs, Chief Medical Officers, Executive Directors and other top-level executives. Peg has a successful track record of identifying and aligning leaders with both publicly traded and venture capital/private equity-backed organizations, and her extensive experience and unique perspective will be a fantastic asset to the Rankin Foundation!

WENDY MILLER

Wendy Miller, a new member of our executive board, is a financial services consultant, working with global financial institutions on process and system improvements and helping to improve overall profitability. Wendy has held previous roles in global organizations and in various product management positions. She feels fortunate for opportunities to combine her love of travel with her career development. While working on a microfinance project in the Philippines, she was able to help cultivate opportunities through entrepreneurship for women, helping lift themselves and their families out of poverty. We look forward to working with her!
Scholar Profiles

RUBY F - Georgia

“I was in a cybersecurity program to earn a certificate while also in college and being a mom.”

Ruby is a JRF Scholar at Arizona State University. She is a senior studying Information Technology. Her goal is to become a cyber security analyst to help protect our national security as well as people’s personal security!

“I was in a cybersecurity program to earn a certificate while also in college and being a mom. My education will benefit myself and my family by giving me a feeling of accomplishment and satisfaction that I was finally able to achieve my academic goals. It will also benefit myself and my family by giving us the means to do better in life and not require government assistance to stay afloat.”

TRACY R - Arkansas

“Going to school with kids getting bounced home constantly because of Covid was very challenging. As was keeping up with my homework in the evenings while my children needed me in their life.

Tracy is a JRF Scholar at NorthWest Arkansas Community College. She is working on her Associate’s Degree in Graphic Design, and she plans on transferring to the University of Arkansas for a Bachelor’s in Graphic Design. She plans on working as a graphic designer for a major corporation and hopes to inspire her children to continue their education too.

“I’m going back to school for the first time in 10 years and for the first time ever I know I am in a place in life to finish my degree. I’m going to school to study graphic design and have absolutely fallen in love with the subject matter. One of the greatest things about going to school later in life is that I can teach my children what I’m learning as I go. My 9-14 year old children have already learned how to use basic functions of Adobe Illustrator. They’re getting excited about their own education possibilities as they realize how much fun higher education can be.”

JENNIFER C - New York

“I’m so very pleased at my grades and getting hired at my dream company.”

Jennifer is a new JRF Scholar at the SUNY Erie Community College. She is in her second year of school, and she is studying Criminal Justice. She plans on transferring so she can earn a Bachelor’s degree in Criminal Justice. She wants to assist child victims of sexual exploitation and their families and bring perpetrators to justice.

“My education benefits my family first. As a sole parent of 4 with very little family support and with various assistance, I’m determined to dig myself out of this hole and provide a better future for my family. My passion is assisting families/victims in obtaining justice and find a small measure of closure as they seek to find normal after suffering from unthinkable abuse situations.”
Thank You Volunteers!

Volunteer Application Readers

Amy Draugelis
Angela Dyb
Anita Burwell
Anita Clinton
Betsy Bach
Breezy Barcelo
Bridget Saffold
Carla Buss
Carney Funnah
Charmaine Wilson
Cheryl Murma
Cheryl Coleman
Christi Bell
Cindy Blair
Danielle Meinert
Darlene Abney
Debra Besch
Deihdra Miller
Diana Roe
Dimples Williamson
Donna Brumby
Dorothy Christenson
Dr. and Mrs. Ardoin Ardoin
Elizabeth Aley
Ellen Bushway
Emily Hu
Eric Raines
Faye Stanley
Gail Buccino
Giovanna Urist
Gloria Garcia
Gregory Gullette
Haydee Kukowski
Heather Martin
Heather Johnson
Hilary Blitz
Holly VanHouten
Jalpa patel
Jamie Woodruff Leary
Jamie Murphy
Jamilla Perez-Robinson
Jan Edler
Jane Nute
Janet Johnstone
Jen Welborn
Jenna Andrews-Swann

Jennifer Jackson
Jessie Kasynski
Jim Schuster
Jocelyn Watson
Karen Stark
Karen Njenga
Karen Picciolo
Katherine Kennon
Kathryn Hall
Katrina White
Kaye Allen
Kevin Esch
Kierstan Dufour
Kim Keegan
Laura Tuccillo
Laura Yepez
Laura Wilkerson
Lequisha Molette
Libby Pollock
Linda Keller
Lisa Walker
Lisa Nunez
Liz Pavey
Lori Tingley
Lorraine Hart
Lorraine Doherty
Lynn Knasel
MacKenzie Smith
Mandy Gillis
Margaret Ryder
Marian Berger
Marian Berger
Marjanne Gooze
Mary Wolf
Melissa Jones
Michelle Bailey
Mimi Ginggold
Mimi Sodhi
Miranda Lawson
Molly Jones
Genie Snyder Chamberlin
Monica Boman
Monica Nixon
Myrna Adams and Herb West
Neelam Kane
Nichelle Evans

Pam Jones
Patty Toenies
Paula Huntley
Paula Halbert
Paula and Mitchell Lang
Rachael Bird
Rags DeFranks
Rebeca Figueroa
Rebecca Bliss
Rhonda Hodges
Rhonda Suka
Rhonda Kumbusky
Robert Merkle
Roland Adams
Rosamond White
Rozelia Park
Ruth Bettandorff
Ruth Elizabeth Conine Nakano
Sally Ferguson
Sandra Small
Sandra Langlois
Sarah Dodson
Simona Alexander
Sue Lawrence
Susan Glatt Greenberg
Susan Barger
Suzanne Taipala
Terrance Hollingsworth
Tiffani Andrews
Tracy Cosgrove
Tracy White
Tracy Vaden
Trisha Sheahan
Vicki Connell
Vickie Rickards
Wanda Negron
Wendy Miller
Yadira Rivera-Cintron
Yolonda Patterson
Board of Directors
Ana Rosado Reyes
Betsy Bach - Board Vice Chair
Catherine Hollingsworth
Charmaine E Wilson
Dimples Williamson
Genie Snyder
J. Maria Waters
Jacqueline Smalley
Jane Hale Hopkins
Kevin Esch
Kimberly Reeve
LaToro Yates
Libby Pollock - Board Chair
Lorraine Hart
MichelleCook
Peg Olson
Rozy Park
Stacy Sollenberger
Tracy Cosgrove
Valerie Bell
Vashti Canty
Wendy Miller

Leadership Volunteers
Ana Rosado Reyes
Bertis Downs
Betsy Bach
Chris Warden
Clif Pannell
Dorothy Newland
Elissa Perry
J. Maria Waters
James Newland
Jinx Patel
Karen Holbrook
Kathy Purcell
Kevin Esch
Kimberly Reeve
Kunal Verma
Laura Bierema
Letty Ashworth
Libby Pollock
Lori Warden
Margaret Holt
Mark H Ebell
Michael W. Purser
Michelle Garfield Cook
Monica Pearson
Nita Sardana
Robert M Larsen
Rozy Park
Ruth Bettendorf
Sue Lawrence
Suzi Wong,
Sylvia Hillyard Pannell
Tim Gordon
Tracy Cosgrove
Vashti E Canty

Volunteer Racial Justice Facilitators
Charmaine Wilson
Dawn Meyer
Deborah Gonzales
Julie Denton
Kathryn Hall
Mamie Fike
Marla Rawls Hill
Micah Janus
Ruth Elizabeth Conine
Sue Lawrence
Val Bell

STAR Party
Alecia Bailey*
Amy Gaitan
Ana Rosado Reyes*
Angie Caudill Waller
Bethany Pruitt
Brittney Ormond
Brynelle Lockhart
Catherine Hollingsworth
Cheryl Spitalnick
Genie Snyder
Jacqueline Smalley
Janice Escribano - Ferrer
Janice Wickham
Kathy Bangle
Kimberly Boykin
Libby Pollock
Liz Pavey*
Michelle Thompson
Stacy Sollenberger
Sulean Carruthers
Tina Russo
Vashti Canty*

It’s Time to Talk: Forums on Race Steering Committee
Bertis Downs
Julie Denton
Raye Rawls
Valerie Bell

Planned Giving Advisory Board
Bree Hayes
Jinx Patel
Steve Hollis
Sue Lawrence
Suzi Wong
Tom Gould