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NYC SERVICE HONORS AWARDEES AND RECOGNIZES THOUSANDS OF VOLUNTEERS

The Mayoral Service Recognition 2020: Resilience Rising virtual event recognized community-based organizations, residents, and businesses for volunteer efforts supporting COVID-19 relief and democracy in 2020.

NEW YORK – Yesterday, NYC Service celebrated National Volunteer Month through the Mayoral Service Recognition Program, a recognition of community-based organizations, their volunteers, and the business community for engaging New Yorkers in service. NYC Service hosted Mayoral Service Recognition 2020: Resilience Rising, a virtual event honoring volunteer and civic engagement efforts within communities in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, racial justice, and strengthening democracy.

“In a year of unprecedented circumstances, New Yorkers across the city stepped up to serve their neighbors,” said **Mayor Bill de Blasio**. “I am so proud to celebrate the many CBOs and volunteers that supported their communities in a time of urgent need. Your commitment to the betterment of our city makes us stronger, and your compassion is what will get us through the COVID-19 Pandemic.”

“Being of service to another New Yorker is a practice grounded in equity,” said **J. Phillip Thompson, Deputy Mayor for Strategic Policy Initiatives**. “Thank you to the community-based organizations and thousands of volunteers for your role in building an equitable future for all New Yorkers.”

“As our city recovers from COVID-19, I am proud to honor the thousands of volunteers who served meals, cared for loved ones and worked on the frontlines of this crisis, said **First Lady Chirlane McCray**. “These everyday heroes, many of whom are from the neighborhoods that were hardest-hit by Covid-19, sacrificed their own safety to support families and keep communities running. New York City will come back stronger because of their generosity.”

“It’s our honor to recognize the resiliency of New York City communities and celebrate those who helped power the city throughout 2020,” said **Acting NYC Chief Service Officer Laura Rog**. “In many cases volunteers have been risking their lives to save another’s during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as coming together to exercise their civic rights to advocate for an accurate Census and racial justice. These actions and many more are paving the road to recovery for all New Yorkers.”

Under the de Blasio Administration, the Mayoral Service Recognition Program has expanded to include an annual ceremony, certificates of recognition, and four awards. Hundreds of viewers joined the virtual celebration with speakers Chirlane McCray, First Lady of NYC, and J. Phillip Thompson, Deputy Mayor for Strategic Policy Initiatives. The 2020 Mayoral Service Recognition Awardees were honored for exceptional service and announced last night:

- Julia Chambers was honored with the AmeriCorps Alum Impact Award for embodying the AmeriCorps spirit of “Getting Things Done” in New York City communities beyond their service year.



- Grillz and Granola LLC was honored with the Community Impact Award for leveraging the power of volunteers in innovative and resourceful ways to strategically address community needs.
- New York Common Pantry and NYC Football Club were honored with Partnership Impact Award for an innovative partnership in service to a community.
- Daisy Hampton was honored with the Youth Impact Award for going above and beyond to create tangible impact in their community.

“Shower Power is a volunteer-led organization that is proudly dedicated to service and creating opportunities to build community with our guests, volunteers and neighbors. We are so grateful for this recognition and will continue to fight to get things done for people who are homeless in NYC,” said **Julia Chambers, Co-Founder of Shower Power**.

“I have learned so much and I have been so inspired by our community. I've learned that if you want to go fast, you can do it by yourself. But, if you want to go far, you need the community to make your journey more comfortable,” said **Chavonne Hodges, Founder and CEO of Grillz and Granola LLC**.

“Consistency is infectious. It's the driver that turns moments into momentum and leads to success,” said **Genail McKinley Co-Founder, COO and CFO Founder of Grillz and Granola LLC**.

“We are beyond honored to be chosen alongside our wonderful partners City in the Community for the Mayor's Partnership Impact Award,” said **Stephen Grimaldi, Executive Director, New York Common Pantry**. “For over a year, CITC has supported us with monetary and in-kind donations as well as through volunteering with us. Working together, we've served and supported the NYC community by providing fresh, nutritious pantry packages and hot meals, and with toys during the holidays.”

“We partnered with New York Common Pantry in 2020 because we wanted to make a meaningful impact and help out our South Bronx neighbors during the peak of the pandemic. Not only have we donated more than 250,000 lifesaving meals throughout COVID together, we have also created a real friendship. Community is at the core of New York City Football Club, and we are honored to accept this award together with our friends at New York Common Pantry. We are proud to stand with their organization for years to come as they work to reduce hunger, promote dignity, health and self-sufficiency,” said **Paul Jeffries, Executive Director of City in the Community Foundation (foundation supported by New York City Football Club)**.

“I am honored to receive the Mayoral Service Youth Impact Award,” said 12-year-old **Daisy Hampton, Founder of Including You**. “What I've learned through the pandemic is that kids need connection. I am grateful to all of the volunteer mentors at Including You and all of the donors for my digital inclusion campaign that helped foster these connections, bringing people together in what has sometimes been divisive times. This experience has reminded me why New York City is so great.”

During the event, 4,225 volunteers were recognized for serving 100 hours or more in the 2020 calendar year. Each volunteer and the organization through which they served will receive a certificate signed by Mayor Bill de Blasio and Acting NYC Chief Service Officer, Laura Rog.



The business community was also recognized for their commitment to engaging employees as volunteers to address the city's greatest needs. Thirty businesses received 2020 Mayoral Service Recognition for their employee volunteer engagements - by engaging over 30% of their NYC-based employees in volunteerism and/or by demonstrating the impact of their employee volunteer service:

AIG	Expecting Relief	New York City Football Club
Al-Rayaan Muslim Funeral Services	Filter Addict Inc	New York Life
AXIS Capital	Guggenheim Partners	Pearls for Her
Barclays	La'Dreamer and Daisy Helping Hands Foundation Inc.	Qasr choob kuhsar
Cause Strategy Partners, LLC	Light of Christ	Queendom NYC
Citi	Marsh McLennan	SL Green Realty Corp
Company Ventures	Mastercard	Sony Corporation of America
Creative Artists Agency	Matters of Sports Athletic League	Synpulse USA Inc
Daniel Irizarry	Mizuho Americas	Trippinz Care Inc
Deutsche Bank	Moody's	UBS

The event was recorded and is available on [YouTube](#). Organizations can still contribute to the 2020 NYC Volunteers Count survey and document their engagement in a historic year by going to nyc.gov/volunteerscount.

About NYC Service

NYC Service is a division of the Mayor's Office that builds partnerships to deepen and expand civic engagement through volunteer and service programs, creating sustainable change for our city's greatest needs. We unite New Yorkers in service to advance lifelong civic engagement for a more equitable and inclusive city. To learn more about NYC Service and connect to volunteer opportunities, visit nyc.gov/service.

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