

Announcing the 2022 Nominees for Leon Gorman Volunteer of the Year!

To be eligible for the Leon Gorman Volunteer of the Year award, nominees must have served a minimum of 250 hours with Preble Street and be currently active as volunteers. Program staff nominate the volunteers and Preble Street leadership selects the winner. This year we are naming and celebrating all LGVOY nominees, whose service to the mission of Preble Street is exceptional and inspiring. Nominees are listed alphabetically by first name. Thank you to all the nominees, and to everyone who volunteers with Preble Street!

Ann Dodd-Collins, Teen Services

When we asked Teen Services who they wanted to nominate for Leon Gorman Volunteer of the Year, Ann's name came up early and often. Staff praised her reliability, her kindness, and her willingness to go above and beyond in the service of youth experiencing problems with homelessness, housing, hunger, and poverty. Ann has recorded over 1,800 volunteer hours since we began keeping records in 2017 — the third-highest total of any volunteer in that time. When she is not at the Teen Center, Ann serves her community as a member of the Faith Advocacy Network.

Anne has been a wonderful and steadfast volunteer at Teen Services over the years. She has a warm smile and incredibly calm demeanor which, in an often chaotic place, is incredibly grounding. She is a warrior in the dish pit, shying away from no twice baked pan, and she did not let Covid keep her away, returning to the kitchen as soon as she was able. We are so grateful for the time she CHOOSES to spend with us and the support she has provided in the years she's been here.

- Kiersten Mulcahy, Director of Teen Shelter Services

Anne has been a stalwart over the years and is beyond deserving. One of the only volunteers I know who is willing to switch locations at a minute's notice, coming in on holidays or whenever a shortage exists. Not to mention she is of the highest character and a beautiful, benevolent spirit.

- John Sevigny, Teen Services Team Leader

Deborah Lynch, Receiving Center

Deborah began volunteering at the Receiving Center in February 2021 and has been active there ever since. Under Deena Metzler's leadership, the Receiving Center is

undergoing a transformation, and Deborah has been essential to this work. Her efforts have gotten countless articles of clean, warm, dignified clothing into the hands of people in need, many of them unsheltered. Deborah is as Preble Street as it gets: devoted, mission-driven, a little bit scrappy, and willing to do whatever it takes to ensure people can access the services they need.

Deborah has been volunteering at the Receiving Center for just over a year and has brought so much joy to staff, donors, and clients alike. She developed a deep understanding of this work in her previous role with a similar program. She has helped build a data collection system that will really help us accomplish our long-term goals in this space. She understands the vision, the reality we work in, and everything in between. She is a natural leader, problem solver, and helper. She makes blankets for folks and wheelchair cushions for Learning Collaborative clients. She greets clients, donors, and staff with kindness and dignity. She knows every staff person who comes through this space and makes everyone's day better. She makes people feel seen and appreciated and is a deeply valued member of this space and everyone who accesses it. I want to be her when I grow up!

- Deena Metzler, Receiving Center Supervisor

Donna Wampole, Florence House

Donna is the Florence House nominee for this award, but she has also been instrumental to the Preble Street mission as both a delivery volunteer and a weekly volunteer at the Food Security Hub. She's everywhere! Not only does Donna regularly serve breakfast at Florence House single-handed, she even helped us develop a training curriculum for breakfast volunteers, making it possible for new folks to get started at Florence House quickly and easily. When she's not at Preble Street, Donna teaches in the Social Work program at USM, and has sometimes even run into her students as they conduct fieldwork at Florence House.

Not only has Donna been a long-time staple when it comes to Florence House breakfast and deliveries, she's also been volunteering in almost every other part of Food Programs when available. She often brings in baked goods for staff and other volunteers. I think she'd be an incredible candidate for volunteer of the year.

- Kevin Bogart, Food Programs Supervisor

Donna really stands out to me as an outstanding volunteer. She has volunteered in the kitchen all year and even provided meditation training at the Florence House retreat. She has provided MSW-level supervision for Florence House interns in the past, which is not a requirement of her job. She just did it as a dedicated member of the community supporting Florence House.

- Laura Clark, Florence House Director

John Reali and Jimmy Wilber, Food Security Hub

John and Jimmy have volunteered at the Resource Center Soup Kitchen, then the Central Kitchen, then the Food Security Hub, since VolunteerHub was just a gleam in some software developer's eye. Since 2017, they have recorded a combined 1,500 volunteer hours. As former owner of the Village Cafe, John brings his valuable experience, and sometimes even his coveted recipes. Jimmy volunteers with us every week, despite having to take the ferry in from Long Island each time. Though they have both been with us through many changes, their dedication and know-how have helped us keep moving forward, one step at a time.

John and Jimmy's commitment to Preble Street has been unwavering. They were there when it was a dining room soup kitchen, they kept coming when Covid first hit, and they stuck with the program through its transition to an all-delivery model. Finally, when the move to the Food Security Hub was announced, they both followed us right out to Darling Ave. No job is beneath these guys. They'll whip up a lobster mac n' cheese or do dishes for hours — they can do it all! These two really care, deeply about the dignity of Preble Street clients. I stepped into this new role as Chef in November, John truly helped me adjust to the major changes happening in the program. He helped lift me up. I believe any positive changes in this program that folks may have noticed are due in part to the service John and Jimmy have provided. I mean it when I say we could not have done it without them. I know Preble Street is important to both John and Jimmy. I want us to honor them and show them how special they are to us, too.

- Meade Aronson, Chef

Maree Young, Delivery Volunteer

Delivery volunteers don't spend as much time interacting with Preble Street staff as traditional volunteers do, which sometimes makes it harder for their contributions to be properly recognized and appreciated, but Maree's impact as a delivery volunteer has been impossible to ignore. Maree delivered hot meals to emergency shelters 171 times last year — almost every other day — and made it look easy, despite the frequent schedule changes necessary to keep up with evolving needs in the community. Maree's support has been critical to ensuring that these meals reach the people who need them. She currently makes six scheduled deliveries each week, and she still signs up for additional shifts when she sees an opening. She has been miraculously reliable despite the heavy workload. We all breathe easier when her name is on the schedule because we know, no matter what, Maree is on the case! When she's not racing around town (safely) with a car full of hot, nutritious meals, Maree can often be found bringing donations of art supplies and rice cookers to the Receiving Center: high-need items that

make life much more pleasant for youth and New Mainers alike. Our current system of volunteer meal deliveries would have been incredibly difficult without her.

Maree is a very kind and reliable food delivery person. She deserves recognition!
- Amy Morrow, Kitchen Operations Assistant