

THANK YOU 2023 DONORS

BLUE RIDGE VOICE



Greetings from the Mountain!

2023 is a wrap, and we are propelling quickly into 2024. But before we focus on 2024, I want to pause and celebrate 2023 with you. As you read this, **I hope you feel a gigantic gush of gratitude.** Thank you for the tremendous support you gave and give to YMCA Blue Ridge. **Thank you for investing in people** (youth, teens, families and adults), **our programs and this place.**

By the numbers, you ensured more than 105 families had an opportunity to pause, connect and enjoy laughter and fun; 355 groups could focus on leadership development, spiritual growth, character development and/or workforce development; over 25,000 guests found community and a sense of belonging.

I am full of joy and thankfulness for the list of people who invested in Blue Ridge and the work we do! When seeing each name printed, **I give a special thanks for the blessing you are to YMCA Blue Ridge.**

Thank you for your partnership and confidence. Know that we look forward to greater and deeper impact in 2024!

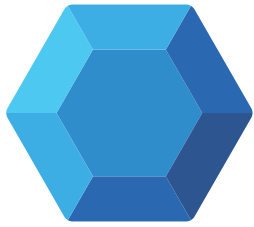
With a hopeful heart,

Melissa Bailey Logan
Chief Executive Officer
YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly

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- Thank You 2023 Donors!
- Be a Blue Ridge GEM





BLUE RIDGE GEMS

Giving Every Month

We're excited to introduce a new way to support the youth, families and adults of YMCA Blue Ridge!

Blue Ridge GEMs is a new donor initiative focused on providing consistent support for keeping our **place** beautiful and safe, providing scholarships for the **people** who visit every year and funding **programs** provided by Blue Ridge and conference groups.

Monthly giving is a great way to support our cause – not only does it provide Blue Ridge with the opportunity to better plan for the future, but **it also allows donors to increase their impact** by spreading out larger contributions over smaller, more manageable amounts.

You can become a Blue Ridge GEM today by donating on our website! Make a recurring gift of **at least \$10/month** to qualify, and we'll send you a Blue Ridge calendar full of beautiful photos of the Mountain along with a virtual desktop calendar each month. All of our current monthly donors are considered GEMs and will receive a calendar!

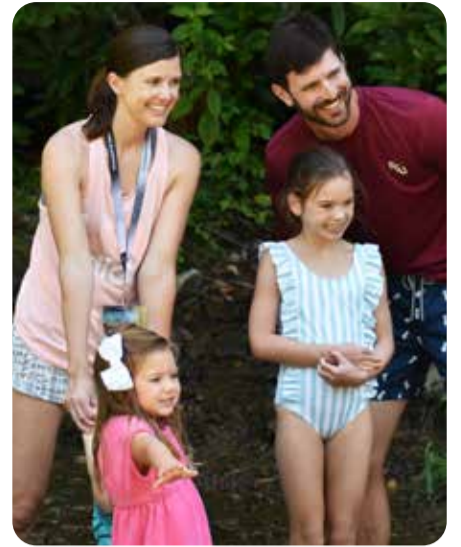


If you have any questions or would like more information, contact Suzette Armatas by calling 828-210-8480 or sending an email to sarmatas@yblueridge.org.

THANK YOU 2023 DONORS



25,967 PEOPLE VISITED THE MOUNTAIN IN 2023



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Ginny Haddas

105 FAMILIES CAME FOR WEEKEND RETREATS

Nick Byrn-Green and Elisabeth Krieg
JoAnn and Andy Calhoun and Family
Jessica Captain and Kristin Captain Scully
Aerial Carlson
Shaun W. Carroll
Anna Reese Chapman
Emily B. Chapman
Christine Chauvin
Chad Clark
Coke and Molly Clark
Joan Clark
Amy and Michael Clarke
Charles and Sherrie Cleveland
Alice and David Collins



I find that
I can really
be myself here

THANK YOU 2023 DONORS



I'm extremely thankful that I had the opportunity to come to Blue Ridge

Susan and Kevin Landergan
G.M. Byrd Larberg
Kristen E. Last
Tony Lay
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Amy Lester
Erin & Tony Levine
Evan Levy
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Lori Swann
Jan and Craig Swiber
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Faith Tarver
Kenton, Megan and Allyson Tarver

34

MIDDLE SCHOOLS PARTICIPATED IN GO OUTSIDE, GROW OUTSIDE

Michel Little
The Logan Family
Chris, Melissa, Colin and Bailey
Thomas and Ruth Logan
Beth and Dowell Loggains
Lynn and Daphne Lomax
Celeste and Miles Love
Les and Catherine Love
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Lori Van Horn
Jere Van Puffelen
Brittany and Bruno Vandorsee
Carlos Verastegui
Laura Vergamini
Juan Diego Vidal
The Wakeford Family
Kris and Ed Wallace
Anthony Walters
Claire Walton
Janet and Carl Ward
James C. Ward

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for the support that allowed me to come to this mountain.



THANK YOU 2023 DONORS



Scott and Cheryl Washburn
Jan and Bill Watts and
Munger Watts Putnam
The Weatherford Family
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Cherokee County Family YMCA
Cleveland County Family YMCA
Family YMCA of Southeast Mississippi
Florence Family YMCA
Foothills Area YMCA
Frank P. Phillips Memorial YMCA
Gaston County Family YMCA
Gateway Region YMCA
Georgia Mountains YMCA
Goldsboro Family YMCA
Harrison Family YMCA/
Rocky Mount Family YMCA
Henderson Family YMCA
Hodding Carter Memorial YMCA
Hopkins County Family YMCA
J. Smith Young Family YMCA
Junius Ward Johnson Memorial YMCA
Kentucky YMCA Youth Association
Lakelands Region YMCA of South Carolina
Metropolitan YMCAs of Mississippi
Mississippi Alliance of YMCAs
Mississippi Gulf Coast YMCA
Newberry County Family YMCA
Pickens County YMCA
Randolph-Asheboro YMCA
Rome-Floyd County YMCA
Rowan-Cabarrus YMCA
South Carolina Alliance of YMCAs
Stanly County Family YMCA
Tampa Metropolitan Area YMCA
The Family Y of Greater Augusta
Tom A. Finch Community YMCA
Union County Family YMCA
Williams YMCA of Avery County
Wilson Family YMCA
YMCA of the Capital Area
YMCA of Catawba Valley
YMCA of Central Florida
YMCA of Coastal Carolina
YMCA of Coastal Georgia
YMCA of Columbia
YMCA of Florida's First Coast
YMCA of Georgia's Piedmont
YMCA of Greater Birmingham
YMCA of Greater Cincinnati
YMCA of Greater Houston
YMCA of Greater Louisville
YMCA of Greater Montgomery
YMCA of Greater Pittsburgh

\$325,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS

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YMCA of Greater Spartanburg
YMCA of Greensboro
YMCA of Greenville
YMCA of High Point
YMCA of Memphis and the Mid-South
YMCA of Metropolitan Atlanta
YMCA of Metropolitan Chattanooga
YMCA of Metropolitan Dallas
YMCA of Middle Tennessee
YMCA of Northwest Florida
YMCA of Northwest North Carolina
YMCA of South Hampton Roads
YMCA of South Palm Beach County
YMCA of Southeastern North Carolina
YMCA of the Suncoast
YMCA of the Triangle Area
YMCA of Upper Palmetto
YMCA of the Virginia Peninsulas
YMCA of Virginia's Blue Ridge
YMCA of Waycross
YMCA of Western North Carolina

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Network for Good
Scotty and Buena Washburn
Endowment Fund
Publix Super Markets Charities
The Kimberly Sterling & Brian Stehli
Charitable Fund

TRIBUTES

In Honor of 1984 Blue Ridge Singers
Julie Caldwell

In Honor of Jodi Bowyer and
In Memory of Reid Bowyer
Fellowship of Christian Athletes

In Honor of my Father, Andy Calhoun
Andrew (A.J.) Calhoun

In Honor of Our Nephews –
Joshua and Zachary DeBlieux
Deek and Leisa DeBlieux

In Honor of DH, KB, DJ ... Thank You

In Honor of Greg Hall's Birthday
Carola Cárdenas
Tammy Jones
Judy Long
Libby Miller

In Honor of Roger Hibbard
Isabelle and Phil Payonk

In Honor of Paul Holzschuh and Family
Charlotte Brown
Cynthia McGee

In Honor of Ruth Johnson and
In Memory of Fulton Johnson
Cal and Patty Johnson

In Honor of Byrd Larberg
Joy McCormack

In Honor of Judy Allam Long
Tese Allam

In Honor of Cassie McBride
Heather Hooper

In Honor of Raymond McClinton Sr.
Raymond and Sue McClinton

In Honor of the Palm Beach Delegation
Pam and Tony Arrieta

In Honor of the Savannah YMCA Family
Center Leaders' Club 1968-1973
Jere Van Puffelen

\$20,000 GIVEN TO OUR CAMPUS WISH LIST FOR EQUIPMENT AND CAMPUS IMPROVEMENTS

THANK YOU 2023 DONORS

In Honor of Pat Thrailkill and
In Memory of Tom Thrailkill
Peter and Leslee Sprague

In Honor of Michael Van Dyke
Buddy and Lisa Goldsmith

In Honor of Jere Van Puffelen
Jay Clark
Jody Hunter †
Cliff Hurst

In Honor of the Watts Family
YMCA of Greater Birmingham

In Honor of Sylvia Smith Williams
Tonya and Kevin Hammond

In Honor of My Time Spent on the Summer
Staff at Blue Ridge Assembly During the
Summers of 1978 and 1979
Debbie Wood

In Loving Memory of Verna Abney
Venla Abney

In Loving Memory of Melsy Saunders
YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly Staff

In Memory of Beth McGirt Adams,
Staff Alumni 1984–1986
Peggy Leis

In Memory of William M. "Bill" Barnhardt
Barnes Giving Fund

In Memory of Betty Carr
Mike Brown
Ryan Wesley Welch

In Memory of Chad Clark's grandparents,
Chuck and Jackie Whitman, who were
founding members of the Jerry Long Y and
especially supportive of youth programs.
Sue and Chris Clark

In Memory of Terry Durrence, Jody Hunter,
Jan Lanier, Jeanie Matthews, Mike Sieber
and Ted Wallace
Savannah YMCA Leaders' Club

15,624
**YOUTH,
TEENS AND
YOUNG ADULTS
HAD LIFE-ENRICHING
EXPERIENCES**

In Memory of Deryck Gapen
Richard and Susan Gapen

In Memory of Jerry Hoogenakker,
Charlotte, N.C.
The Hoogenakker Family

In Memory of Paul Harris
Chuck and Cindy Harris

In Memory of Fulton Johnson
Peter Post

In Memory of Don Kyzer
Blaine Wheeler

In Memory of Joe Lukaszewski
Holzschuh & Lester Families

In Memory of Gaines Montgomery
Susie Montgomery

In Memory of Mary McCann, who Loved
and Lived Strong
Chris and Grant Young

thank you for
an unforgettable
and life-changing
experience.



In Memory of Suzanne Mabie
Ed Mabie Jr.
Mary Bureson
Mary Catherine Person
Sharon Vogel
Mary Zoller

In Memory of David Parker
Mary Parker Davis

In Memory of Our Parents – Dorothy Reece,
Andy and Mary Ann Armatas, and
Anna Sengos
Peter and Kathy Armatas

In Memory of Allan and Dorothy Robertson
Tanner Kelly

In Memory of Chester C. Smith Sr.
Craig and Maggie Smith

In Memory of Tracey Sullivan
Gary and Michele Brock
Taylor Brock
Janice Hough
Josephine M. Sciortino
Brian Tomlinson

In Memory of H. Webster Walker III
Jane Walker Blake

In Memory of Frank Washburn and
Allan Robertson
Mike and Amy Clarke

In Memory of Jim Woods
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Christy Gelpach
Joy Gregory
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Michael Santa Maria
Jennifer Trock
Pat and Zan West
John M. Wolford and Rhonda S. Cooper
YMCA Blue Ridge Staff

And a special thanks
to all of our generous
donors who chose to
remain anonymous!



it is because of all of you
that I am able to
experience this magic.

COMING UP IN 2024

YMCA Professional Network Conference

March 20–22, 2024

SERFA Annual Conference 2024

* May 9–12, 2024

Summer Family Camp

* Session 1: June 8–13, 2024

* Session 2: July 28–August 2, 2024

Blue Ridge Leaders' School

Session 1: June 15–22, 2024

Session 2: July 20–27, 2024

Youth Conference on National Affairs

June 29–July 5, 2024

Fellowship of Christian Athletes Camps

June and July, 2024

Camp China

July 5–8, 2024

Christian Values Conference

July 14–19, 2024

Forest Hill Camp Rock

July 16–20, 2024

Y Achievers Summit

* July 28–31, 2024

YMCAs of the Southeast Hall of Fame Celebration

September 18, 2024

Global Leadership Summit

* August 8–9, 2024

Teen Staff Academy

* November 11–13, 2024

Thanksgiving Family Camp

* November 27–30, 2024

* Register for these events as they become available at blueridgeassembly.org/now-registering.



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blueridgeassembly.org