

SIMPLE WAYS TO ACKNOWLEDGE VOLUNTEERS

Portrait Photographs of All Council Members: At the January all-day Council orientation, staff take portrait-style photographs of all volunteers.

The Leadership Wall: Staff frame and displays the portrait-style photographs of the Leadership Team for that year (each officer and committee co-chair). Typically, this requires twelve photographs which fill the wall above the couch in the waiting area of the Council's Office of Support. This is an inexpensive way to decorate the office, reminds staff who we are responsible to, helps new volunteers recognize members who are in leadership positions and makes the leaders feel proud. When a leader retires from the Council, staff move the portrait to the hallway where visitors to the building enjoy seeing appointees of the County Judge who are working with the Ryan White Planning Council.



Thank You Cards: One of our staff members is particularly talented at creating thank you notes. Annually in February, willing members of the Affected Community Committee are photographed as a group. The photograph is used as the cover for an annual thank you note which the Council Chair and Committee Co-Chairs send to speakers and others whom they wish to acknowledge and thank.

The Memorial Wall: When a current or former Council or external committee member passes away, the staff person mentioned above uses the portrait photo, or a different photograph, to create a collage in remembrance of the person who died. The remembrance is framed and displayed on a wall in our conference room. The Memorial Wall provides emotional grounding every day and reminds us to keep up the fight.

Birthday Cards: As a way of celebrating members, staff sends a birthday card to each Council member. It is surprising how meaningful this is to our volunteers.