

# The Journal

CCAP/ Loaves & Fishes celebrates young volunteers, their accomplishments and passion for serving the community



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Veronica McDade was one of 27 students honored with Shepherd University's prestigious McMurrin Merit Scholar Award, an accomplishment her CCAP/Loaves & Fishes fellow

volunteers said only further showcases the young woman's passion for bettering her community, as well as herself.

MARTINSBURG — Officials with CCAP/Loaves & Fishes are celebrating unique growth and learning opportunities within their organization, as volunteers young and old work collaboratively to further the group's mission.

According to Beverly Van Metre, president of CCAP, while the group continues to work toward addressing food insecurity, and the myriad of other social issues that come along with it, in the community, it is through the work of volunteers with varying experiences and knowledge that CCAP is able to grow and adapt to area needs.

"As a nurse, with a long time spent practicing, I got a taste of how it is to be a student and wanting to get some help from people who are already working in the field you want to work in," Van Metre said. "I find it hard to say 'no' when there is a student who is asking for something in this regard and am always surprised and excited to see all of the young people coming to help us here. The youth tends to pull the rest of us along and keep us up to date and in touch with technology and so on. I believe in lifelong learning, and I think everyone has something to offer and gain in that process, and it's been exciting to see our young and old volunteers sharing what they know in an effort to help CCAP."

One such example of exemplary work and dedication from a young volunteer came in the form of Clarksburg, Maryland, native Veronica McDade, a volunteer and a master's degree student at Shepherd University, who said she had been pursuing a business administration degree after she got her bachelor's degree in psychology in hopes of one day working in a nonprofit just like CCAP.

McDade was one of only 27 students from Shepherd to be awarded the McMurrin Merit Scholar Award, the highest academic honor awarded at the university, with a rigorous set of guidelines and requirements that test the dedication and passion of students just like McDade.

As part of the rigorous criteria, McDade and the other 26 honorees had to meet the following requirements: have been presented by the provost to the Scholarship and Awards committees as being eligible as a scholar by having amassed a minimum of 90 semester hours leading to the four-year baccalaureate degree; maintained full-time status; completed at least 45 of the minimum 90 semester hours at Shepherd University; maintained a minimum of a 3.86 quality grade-point average; was nominated by a minimum of three faculty members who have sufficient knowledge of them for demonstrating good character and exemplary conduct; were approved by the faculty at large.

As one of a select few to hold such a title, McDade said it was just a small token of the passion she has for not only bettering herself but creating a positive impact on her community.

“I love working with CCAP. I was more than ready to jump in and do whatever I could to help,” McDade said. “This is the field I hope to work in so being able to learn from other volunteers and leaders, while working to address food insecurity, rent and medication assistance in the community, has been amazing.”

Like McDade, CCAP boasts a variety of high school and college-aged volunteers, who Cathy Ruley, a CCAP board member, said have not only gained their own experiences from the more seasoned CCAP members but have offered advice and help in modernizing CCAP’s presence in the community.

“Sometimes, I’ll hear people say young people don’t know what hard work is, that they don’t understand the real world, but I find that’s not true at all with our volunteers, especially with our youth like Veronica,” Ruley said. “She was ready to begin working the moment she could. Everyone loves her, and she will do anything you need, even attending our board meetings and working on the administrative side of things. It’s amazing to see her, and others like her, give so much of themselves to our cause and this community.”

Link for original article [click here](#)

[https://www.journal-news.net/journal-news/ccap-loaves-fishes-celebrates-young-volunteers-their-accomplishments-and-passion-for-serving-the-community/article\\_68adf2bf-0173-5bb1-884a-7f4502668f20.html](https://www.journal-news.net/journal-news/ccap-loaves-fishes-celebrates-young-volunteers-their-accomplishments-and-passion-for-serving-the-community/article_68adf2bf-0173-5bb1-884a-7f4502668f20.html)