

## Jack B. Hefner Memorial Award

Jack B. Hefner served the State of North Carolina as a member of the North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities (NCCDD) from 1982 until his passing in 1994. As a father to a son with intellectual disabilities, "Big Jack" was willing to do whatever it took to enhance the quality of life for North Carolinians affected by disability. Jack B. Hefner's leadership inspired a generation of advocates and people with I/DD to work forcefully.

On October 27, 1994, the NCCDD established the Jack B. Hefner Award to celebrate the vision and achievement of North Carolina's families and people with I/DD. The Council presents the award annually.

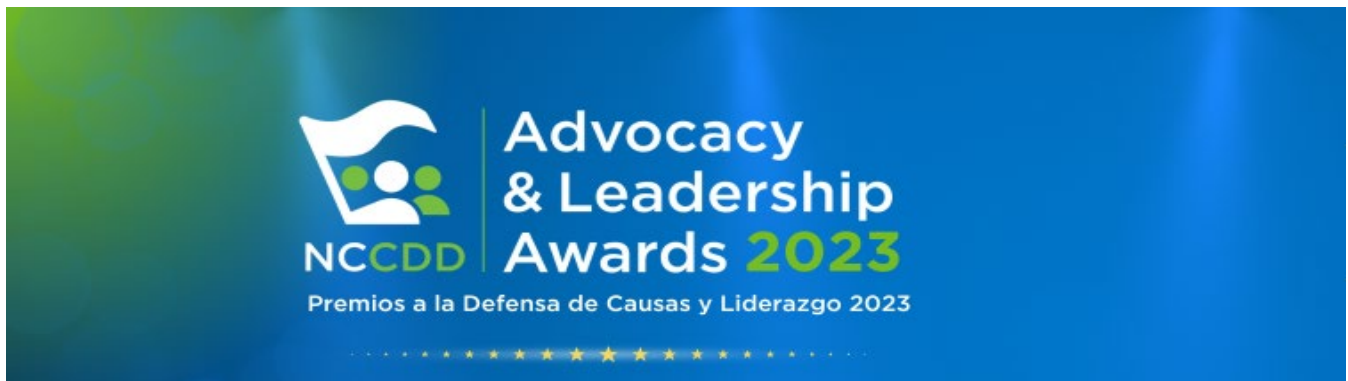
### 2022 Winner



**Kerri Eaker, Asheville**

### 2023 Nominees

1. Madha V Swaminathan
2. Cynthia Harris
3. Jeff Holland
4. Jessica Aguilar
5. Sarah Potter



## **Jack B. Hefner Memorial Award**

Jack B. Hefner served the State of North Carolina as a member of the North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities (NCCDD) from 1982 until his passing in 1994. As a father to a son with intellectual disabilities, "Big Jack" was willing to do whatever it took to enhance the quality of life for North Carolinians affected by disability. Jack B. Hefner's leadership inspired a generation of advocates and people with I/DD to work forcefully.

On October 27, 1994, the NCCDD established the Jack B. Hefner Award to celebrate the vision and achievement of North Carolina's families and people with I/DD. The Council presents the award annually.

### **2023 Nominee**

# **Madha V Swaminathan**



## North Carolina Leadership Achievement Award 2023 Nomination Application

*The North Carolina Leadership Achievement Award is presented to an outstanding North Carolina self-advocate whose work has improved the quality of life for people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities. Winners will be announced at the November Quarterly Council Meeting during the Advocacy & Leadership Awards Ceremony in Cary, NC.*

### Section 1. Nomination Form:

Name of Nominee	Madhav Swaminathan
Name (as you wish it to appear on award)	Madhav Swaminathan
Home address	2 Gray Bluff Pl
State (NC): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City: Durham Zip: 27705	
Phone Number	919-812-1528
Email	Madhav.swaminathan@duke.edu

### Section 2. Listing of Qualifications

Please attach as a separate document a brief description (maximum 300 words) of the qualifications of the nominee for this award. Give specific information about the nominee's activities in improving the lives of people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities, including examples of significant contributions and leadership. Please include the following:

- List nominee's advocacy experience, contributions and other distinguishing advocacy characteristics
- Areas of strength/experience/achievements in the field of intellectual and other developmental disabilities
- List nominee's distinguishing personal characteristics, advocacy work and other activities in the field of intellectual and other developmental disabilities

### Section 3. Supporting Information

Identify **three** (3) individuals who have knowledge of the efforts of the nominee.

*NOTE:* It is encouraged that individuals submit a short statement (maximum 300 words) in support of the nominee. Statements should include specific examples of work the nominee has done to influence positive change in the lives of people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities.



Name (Individual #1)	Geraldine Dawson
Home address	2608 Erwin Rd, Ste 300
State (NC): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City: Durham Zip: 27705	
Phone Number	919-684-3165
Email	Geraldine.dawson@duke.edu

Name (Individual #2)	Adrian Hernandez
Home address	PO Box 17969 Duke
State (NC): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City: Durham Zip: 27715	
Phone Number	919-668-7515
Email	Adrian.hernandez@duke.edu

Name (Individual #3)	Alhagie Sam
Home address	Duke CEPD, Box G07
State (NC): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City: Durham Zip: 27705	
Phone Number	919-684-2931
Email	Alhagie.sam@duke.edu

#### Section 4. Personal References (Required)

Identify **three** (3) individuals as personal references who may be contacted to help evaluate the qualifications of the nominee.

Name (Individual #1)	Robert Lattanzi
Phone Number	215-932-0207
Email	Robert.lattanzi@duke.edu

Name (Individual #2)	Kristen Randall
Phone Number	919-452-4967
Email	Kristen.randall@durhamnc.gov

Name (Individual #3)	Lisa Einhorn
Phone Number	410-218-8026
Email	Lisa.einhorn@duke.edu



**Nomination Submitted by:**

Full name	Joseph P. Mathew, MD, MHSc, MBA
Organization (if applicable)	Duke University School of Medicine
Title/relationship to nominee	Jerry Reves Professor of Anesthesiology and Chair of Anesthesiology/Supervising physician
Home address	11 Beckford Pl
State (NC): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City: Durham Zip: 27705	
Phone number	919-880-3635
Email	Joseph.mathew@duke.edu

I've read and followed the submission guidelines for my application to be considered for the 2023 Advocacy and Leadership Awards. I understand my application will not be considered if the following documents are not completed:

- Section 1: Completed
- Section 2: Completed with 'Listing of Qualifications' (required) attached.
- Section 3: Completed with 'Short Statements of Support' (optional) attached.
- Section 4: Completed (required)
- Submitted **ON OR PRIOR TO, Friday, June 30, 2023.**

Submission Options: *NOTE: all pages of this application must be submitted by **Friday, June 30, 2023** in one of the three ways:*

- **Option ONE:** Email the nomination application and listing of qualifications to Pam Hunter Dempsey, Systems Change Manager at [pam.dempsey@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:pam.dempsey@dhhs.nc.gov) and [info@nccdd.org](mailto:info@nccdd.org)
- **Option TWO:** Fax the nomination application and listing of qualifications to 984-920-8201. Please include cover sheet indicating your name and total number of pages.
- **Option THREE:** Mail the nomination application and listing of qualifications to:
  - North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities (NCCDD)
  - ATTN: NCCDD Advocacy & Leadership Awards
  - 2010 Mail Service Center
  - Raleigh, NC 27699-2010



To Whom It May Concern:

**Re: Jack B. Hefner Memorial Award 2023**

Madhav Swaminathan is an anesthesiologist at Duke University and a father of a 28-year-old man with autism. He has been a relentless advocate for those on the autism spectrum and has dedicated his life to improving the lives of those impacted by autism. Prior to coming to Duke, he was in Belfast, UK, where he was a parent advocate on the Autism Steering Committee of the Queens University of Belfast and the Northern Ireland Department of Health and Social Services from 1999 to 2000. After coming to the US in 2000, he was involved in the Special Olympics of NC in Orange County where he often participated as a coach. Dr. Swaminathan also served on the Board of Directors of the ARC of Orange County (now ARC of the Triangle) from 2010 to 2015 where he helped the organization with its strategic goals of helping the community of individuals with intellectual disabilities. Since 2020, he has served on the Community Advisory Board of the Autism Center of Excellence at the Duke Center for Autism and Brain Development. In 2017, he created the Duke Autism Dads (DADs) group to bring together those in the role of “dad” to kids with autism across the Duke community. This successful effort has since expanded to now include mothers, fathers, siblings, and even those with autism who serve in a parent’s role. Along with other autism dads in the group, he has helped develop training modules for nurses at Duke to enhance the care of neurodivergent patients. This will help improve awareness of neurodiversity among healthcare providers and eventually improve the healthcare experience of patients on the spectrum. In summary, Dr. Madhav Swaminathan has had a significant positive impact on individuals and families impacted by autism and is richly deserving of this recognition.

**(Word count: 298)**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph P. Mathew".

Joseph P. Mathew, MD, MHSc, MBA  
Jerry Reves Professor of Anesthesiology  
Chair, Department of Anesthesiology  
Duke University School of Medicine  
Durham, NC 27710  
[Joseph.mathew@duke.edu](mailto:Joseph.mathew@duke.edu)



## North Carolina Leadership Achievement Award 2023 Nomination Application

*The North Carolina Leadership Achievement Award is presented to an outstanding North Carolina self-advocate whose work has improved the quality of life for people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities. Winners will be announced at the November Quarterly Council Meeting during the Advocacy & Leadership Awards Ceremony in Cary, NC.*

### Section 1. Nomination Form:

Name of Nominee	Madhav Swaminathan
Name (as you wish it to appear on award)	Madhav Swaminathan
Home address	2 Gray Bluff Pl
State (NC): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City: Durham Zip: 27705	
Phone Number	919-812-1528
Email	Madhav.swaminathan@duke.edu

### Section 2. Listing of Qualifications

Please attach as a separate document a brief description (maximum 300 words) of the qualifications of the nominee for this award. Give specific information about the nominee's activities in improving the lives of people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities, including examples of significant contributions and leadership. Please include the following:

- List nominee's advocacy experience, contributions and other distinguishing advocacy characteristics
- Areas of strength/experience/achievements in the field of intellectual and other developmental disabilities
- List nominee's distinguishing personal characteristics, advocacy work and other activities in the field of intellectual and other developmental disabilities

### Section 3. Supporting Information

Identify **three** (3) individuals who have knowledge of the efforts of the nominee.

*NOTE:* It is encouraged that individuals submit a short statement (maximum 300 words) in support of the nominee. Statements should include specific examples of work the nominee has done to influence positive change in the lives of people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities.



Name (Individual #1)	Geraldine Dawson
Home address	2608 Erwin Rd, Ste 300
State (NC): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City: Durham Zip: 27705	
Phone Number	919-684-3165
Email	Geraldine.dawson@duke.edu

Name (Individual #2)	Adrian Hernandez
Home address	PO Box 17969 Duke
State (NC): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City: Durham Zip: 27715	
Phone Number	919-668-7515
Email	Adrian.hernandez@duke.edu

Name (Individual #3)	Alhagie Sam
Home address	Duke CEPD, Box G07
State (NC): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City: Durham Zip: 27705	
Phone Number	919-684-2931
Email	Alhagie.sam@duke.edu

#### Section 4. Personal References (Required)

Identify **three** (3) individuals as personal references who may be contacted to help evaluate the qualifications of the nominee.

Name (Individual #1)	Robert Lattanzi
Phone Number	215-932-0207
Email	Robert.lattanzi@duke.edu

Name (Individual #2)	Kristen Randall
Phone Number	919-452-4967
Email	Kristen.randall@durhamnc.gov

Name (Individual #3)	Lisa Einhorn
Phone Number	410-218-8026
Email	Lisa.einhorn@duke.edu





**Nomination Submitted by:**

Full name	Joseph P. Mathew, MD, MHSc, MBA
Organization (if applicable)	Duke University School of Medicine
Title/relationship to nominee	Jerry Reves Professor of Anesthesiology and Chair of Anesthesiology/Supervising physician
Home address	11 Beckford Pl
State (NC): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City: Durham Zip: 27705	
Phone number	919-880-3635
Email	Joseph.mathew@duke.edu

I've read and followed the submission guidelines for my application to be considered for the 2023 Advocacy and Leadership Awards. I understand my application will not be considered if the following documents are not completed:

- Section 1: Completed
- Section 2: Completed with 'Listing of Qualifications' (required) attached.
- Section 3: Completed with 'Short Statements of Support' (optional) attached.
- Section 4: Completed (required)
- Submitted **ON OR PRIOR TO, Friday, June 30, 2023.**

Submission Options: *NOTE: all pages of this application must be submitted by **Friday, June 30, 2023** in one of the three ways:*

- **Option ONE:** Email the nomination application and listing of qualifications to Pam Hunter Dempsey, Systems Change Manager at [pam.dempsey@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:pam.dempsey@dhhs.nc.gov) and [info@nccdd.org](mailto:info@nccdd.org)
- **Option TWO:** Fax the nomination application and listing of qualifications to 984-920-8201. Please include cover sheet indicating your name and total number of pages.
- **Option THREE:** Mail the nomination application and listing of qualifications to:
  - North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities (NCCDD)
  - ATTN: NCCDD Advocacy & Leadership Awards
  - 2010 Mail Service Center
  - Raleigh, NC 27699-2010



To Whom It May Concern:

**Re: Jack B. Hefner Memorial Award 2023**

Madhav Swaminathan is an anesthesiologist at Duke University and a father of a 28-year-old man with autism. He has been a relentless advocate for those on the autism spectrum and has dedicated his life to improving the lives of those impacted by autism. Prior to coming to Duke, he was in Belfast, UK, where he was a parent advocate on the Autism Steering Committee of the Queens University of Belfast and the Northern Ireland Department of Health and Social Services from 1999 to 2000. After coming to the US in 2000, he was involved in the Special Olympics of NC in Orange County where he often participated as a coach. Dr. Swaminathan also served on the Board of Directors of the ARC of Orange County (now ARC of the Triangle) from 2010 to 2015 where he helped the organization with its strategic goals of helping the community of individuals with intellectual disabilities. Since 2020, he has served on the Community Advisory Board of the Autism Center of Excellence at the Duke Center for Autism and Brain Development. In 2017, he created the Duke Autism Dads (DADs) group to bring together those in the role of “dad” to kids with autism across the Duke community. This successful effort has since expanded to now include mothers, fathers, siblings, and even those with autism who serve in a parent’s role. Along with other autism dads in the group, he has helped develop training modules for nurses at Duke to enhance the care of neurodivergent patients. This will help improve awareness of neurodiversity among healthcare providers and eventually improve the healthcare experience of patients on the spectrum. In summary, Dr. Madhav Swaminathan has had a significant positive impact on individuals and families impacted by autism and is richly deserving of this recognition.

**(Word count: 298)**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph P. Mathew", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Joseph P. Mathew, MD, MHSc, MBA  
Jerry Reves Professor of Anesthesiology  
Chair, Department of Anesthesiology  
Duke University School of Medicine  
Durham, NC 27710  
[Joseph.mathew@duke.edu](mailto:Joseph.mathew@duke.edu)



## **Jack B. Hefner Memorial Award**

Jack B. Hefner served the State of North Carolina as a member of the North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities (NCCDD) from 1982 until his passing in 1994. As a father to a son with intellectual disabilities, "Big Jack" was willing to do whatever it took to enhance the quality of life for North Carolinians affected by disability. Jack B. Hefner's leadership inspired a generation of advocates and people with I/DD to work forcefully.

On October 27, 1994, the NCCDD established the Jack B. Hefner Award to celebrate the vision and achievement of North Carolina's families and people with I/DD. The Council presents the award annually.

**2023 Nominee**

**Cynthia Harris**

3

**Woodward, Philip C**

---

**From:** Cynthia Harris <harriscynthia433@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 27, 2022 1:05 PM  
**To:** info@nccdd.org; Woodward, Philip C  
**Subject:** [External] Jack B. Hefner Memorial Award 2018 Nomination Application

CAUTION: External email. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify. Send all suspicious email as an attachment to [Report Spam](#).

New submission

Header

## Jack B. Hefner Memorial Award 2022 Nomination Application

*The Jack B. Hefner Memorial Award honors an outstanding North Carolina advocate whose actions have improved the quality of life for people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities. The award will be presented at the quarterly meeting of the NC Council on Developmental Disabilities on November 2, 2022 in Cary, NC.*

Section 1

### Section 1. Nomination Form

**Name of Nominee**

Name of Nominee

Cynthia Harris

**Name**

Name

Cynthia Harris

**Home Address**

Home Address

1331 Ellis Road

**City**

City

Durham

**State**

State

NC

**Zip Code**

Zip Code

27703

**Phone Number**

Phone Number

919-225-2989

**The Nominee is an**

The Nominee is an

Family member of a person with an intellectual or other developmental disability

Family member of a person with an intellectual or other developmental disability

**Section 2**

**Section 2. Listing of Qualifications**

**Brief Description**

If necessary, please attach as a separate document a brief description (not to exceed 300 words) of the qualifications of the nominee for this award. Give specific information about the nominee's activities in improving lives of people with intellectual or other developmental disabilities, including examples of significant contributions and leadership. Please include the following:

- List nominee's advocacy experience
- Areas of strength/experience/achievements in the area of intellectual or other developmental disabilities.
- List nominee's volunteer experience

**Listing of Qualifications is attached**

'Listing of Qualifications' is attached.

'Listing of Qualifications' is attached.

**Section 3**

**Section 3. Supporting Information**

**Identify three individuals who have personal knowledge of the efforts of the nominee**

{Identify three individuals who have personal knowledge of the efforts of the nominee:value}

**NOTE**

{NOTE:value}

**1**

1.

**Name1**

Name

Susan Fewell

**Home Address 1**

Home Address

16 Furches St

**City 1**

City

Raleigh

**State 1**

State

NC

**Zip Code1**

Zip Code

27607

**Phone Number 1**

Phone Number

919-618-3003

**2**

2.

**Name2**

Name

Ashley Bass Mitchell

**Home Address 2**

Home Address

5200 W. Paramount Parkway ,Suite 200

**City 2**

City

Morrisville

**State 2**

State

NC

**Zip Code2**

Zip Code

27560

**Phone Number 2**

Phone Number

(919)651-8498

**3**

3.

**Name3**

Name

Kelly Friedlander

**Home Address 3**

Home Address

21 China Doll Court

**City 3**

City

Durham

**State 3**

State

NC

**Organization**

Organization (if applicable)

**Zip Code3**

Zip Code

27713

**Phone Number 3**

Phone Number

919-564-6975

**Nomination submitted by**

**Nomination submitted by:**

**Full name**

Full name

Cynthia Harris

**Title relationship to nominee**

Title/relationship to nominee

Self

**Nomination submitted Address**

Home Address

1331 Ellis Road

**Nomination submitted City**



City

Durham

**Nomination submitted State**

State

NC

**Nomination submitted Zip**

Zip

27703

**Nomination submitted Phone**

Phone Number

9192252989

**Email**

Email

harriscynthia433@gmail.com

**Section 4**

**Section 4. Personal References (Required)**

Identify **three (3)** individuals as personal references who may be contacted to help evaluate the qualifications of the nominee.

**I have completed the included the following documents for consideration for the 2018 Advocacy and Leadership Awards**

{I have completed the included the following documents for consideration for the 2018 Advocacy and Leadership Awards:caption}

{I have completed the included the following documents for consideration for the 2018 Advocacy and Leadership Awards:value}

{I have completed the included the following documents for consideration for the 2018 Advocacy and Leadership Awards:text}

**upload brief**

Please upload listing of qualifications

**Ive read and followed the submission guidelines for my application to be considered for the 2018 Advocacy and Leadership Awards**

{Ive read and followed the submission guidelines for my application to be considered for the 2018 Advocacy and Leadership Awards:caption}

{Ive read and followed the submission guidelines for my application to be considered for the 2018 Advocacy and Leadership Awards:value}

{Ive read and followed the submission guidelines for my application to be considered for the 2018 Advocacy and Leadership Awards:text}

**Captcha**

**Submit**

Submit

**Thank You**

Submission Options: NOTE: all pages of this application must be submitted by Sunday, July 31, 2022 in one of the three ways:

- **Email** the application form to Pam Hunter Dempsey, Systems Change Manager at [pam.dempsey@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:pam.dempsey@dhhs.nc.gov) and [info@nccdd.org](mailto:info@nccdd.org)
- **Fax** the completed application to 984-920-8201. Please include cover sheet indicating Full Name and total number of pages.
- **Mail** the application to:  
North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities  
ATTN: NCCDD Advocacy and Leadership Awards, 2010 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-2010



## **Jack B. Hefner Memorial Award**

Jack B. Hefner served the State of North Carolina as a member of the North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities (NCCDD) from 1982 until his passing in 1994. As a father to a son with intellectual disabilities, "Big Jack" was willing to do whatever it took to enhance the quality of life for North Carolinians affected by disability. Jack B. Hefner's leadership inspired a generation of advocates and people with I/DD to work forcefully.

On October 27, 1994, the NCCDD established the Jack B. Hefner Award to celebrate the vision and achievement of North Carolina's families and people with I/DD. The Council presents the award annually.

**2023 Nominee**

**Jeff Holland**

7

**Woodward, Philip C**

---

**From:** Dempsey, Pamela H  
**Sent:** Monday, August 8, 2022 3:49 PM  
**To:** Woodward, Philip C  
**Subject:** FW: [External] Nomination for Jack B. Hefner award  
**Attachments:** app 1.pdf; app 2.pdf; app 3.pdf; app 4.pdf; app 5.pdf; app 6.pdf; Listing of Jeff Holland.docx; Dotty Foley rec ltr.pdf; Letter of support for Jeff Holland.docx; Lincoln rec ltr.html

Pam Hunter Dempsey  
NC Council on Developmental Disabilities (NCCDD)  
NC Department of Health and Human Services



**Vax Up** **OR** **Mask Up**

**Find a vaccine location, get questions answered and more at [YourSpotYourShot.nc.gov](https://YourSpotYourShot.nc.gov).**

Office/TTY: 984-920-8209  
Toll Free: 800-357-6916  
[Pam.Dempsey@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:Pam.Dempsey@dhhs.nc.gov)  
<http://www.nccdd.org>

Mailing Address: 2010 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699

New Physical Address (updated February 2022):  
3109 Poplarwood Court, Suite 105  
Raleigh, NC, 27604

Twitter | Facebook | YouTube | LinkedIn

---

Email correspondence to and from this address is subject to the North Carolina Public Records Law and may be disclosed to third parties by an authorized State official. Unauthorized disclosure of juvenile, health, legally privileged, or otherwise confidential information, including confidential information relating to an ongoing State procurement effort, is prohibited by law. If you have received this email in error, please notify the sender immediately and delete all records of this email.

**From:** Tanya Holland <hunilam@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 31, 2022 7:52 PM  
**To:** Dempsey, Pamela H <Pam.Dempsey@dhhs.nc.gov>  
**Subject:** [External] Nomination for Jack B. Hefner award

CAUTION: External email. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify. Send all suspicious email as an attachment to Report Spam.

This is to nominate my husband, Jeff Holland, for the Jack B. Hefner award.

My apologies that I have had to send the application via this format. I spent all afternoon trying to get the document to transmit online, but it would not go through. I tried the email address listed at the end of the application, but it would not allow me to attach any documents. BUT.....I feel very strongly that my husband is a worthy nominee, so I would not give up! As awkward as it is to send via attachments, alas, this is what I have had to resort to! Sorry.....

Attached are the application, list of applicant's qualifications, and statements of support.

Please let me know that you did indeed get this application!!

Respectfully submitted,

Tanya Holland




 (<https://www.facebook.com/NCCouncilonDD>) 

(<https://twitter.com/nccdd>) 

(<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCO-5fG3vRvqaD4N5gwdORJA>)

 (</upcoming-events>)

A- A A+

Select language 

**COVID-19 RESOURCES** (</covid-19-resources.html>)

**Upcoming Public Meetings** (</the-council/upcoming-public-meetings.html>)

Home (/) > Jack B. Hefner Memorial Award 2022 Nomination Application

Please complete all required fields!

# Jack B. Hefner Memorial Award 2022 Nomination Application

*The Jack B. Hefner Memorial Award honors an outstanding North Carolina advocate whose actions have improved the quality of life for people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities. The award will be presented at the quarterly meeting of the NC Council on Developmental Disabilities on November 2, 2022 in Cary, NC.*

## Section 1. Nomination Form

Name of Nominee Jeff Holland

Name (\*) Jeffrey Dean Holland



Home Address 119 Ashebury Dr.

City Clayton

State NC

Zip Code 27527

Phone Number 919-508-6186

Invalid Input

Email hollandjeff@yahoo.com

The Nominee is an  Family member of a person with an intellectual or other developmental disability  
 Volunteer (non-professional)

## Section 2. Listing of Qualifications

If necessary, please attach as a separate document a brief description (not to exceed 300 words) of the qualifications of the nominee for this award. Give specific information about the nominee's activities in improving lives of people with intellectual or other developmental disabilities, including examples of significant contributions and leadership. Please include the following:

- List nominee's advocacy experience
- Areas of strength/experience/achievements in the area of intellectual or other developmental disabilities.
- List nominee's volunteer experience

'Listing of Qualifications' is attached.

## Section 3. Supporting Information

Identify three individuals who have knowledge of the efforts of the nominee.

NOTE: It is encouraged that individuals submit a short statement (maximum 300 words) in support of the nominee. Statements should include specific examples of work the nominee has done to influence positive change in the lives of people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities.

1.

**Name** Dotty FGoley

**Home Address** 704 Spindlewood

**City** Pittsboro

**State** NC

**Zip Code** 27312

**Phone Number** 919.452.7224

**Email** dotty@hopenorthcarolina.org

2.

**Name** Matt LeBron

**Home Address** 303 Godwin St.

**City** Selma

**State** NC



Zip Code 27576

Phone Number 919-333-5094

Email phetmlebron@gmail.com

3.

Name Barbara Lincoln

Home Address 123 Scotch Bonnet Ridge Road

City Clayton

State NC

Zip Code 27520

Phone Number 919-763-5667

Email blincoln476@gmail.com

## Section 4. Personal References (Required)

Identify **three** (3) individuals as personal references who may be contacted to help evaluate the qualifications of the nominee.

Reference 1



**Name (\*)** Wayne Wallace

**Phone Number (\*)** 919-722-9207

**Email (\*)** Moofywal@gmail.com

Reference 2

**Name (\*)** Steve Jarvi

**Phone Number (\*)** 719-332-1979

**Email (\*)** sjarvi@cisco.com

Reference 3

**Name (\*)** Susan Minton

**Phone Number (\*)** 919-630-1256

**Email (\*)** Sminton@nc.rr.com

Nomination submitted by:

**Full name** Tanya Holland



Organization (if applicable)

Title/relationship to nominee Wife

Home Address 119 Ashebury Dr

City Clayton

State NC

Zip 27527-6089

Phone Number 919-508-6186

Email (\*) hunilam@yahoo.com

## Section 5. Submission Deadlines and Requirements

I've read and followed the submission guidelines for my application to be considered for the 2022 Advocacy and Leadership Awards. I understand my application will not be considered if the following documents are not completed.

- I have completed and included the following documents for consideration for the 2022 Advocacy and Leadership Awards:
- Section 1: Completed
  - Section 2: Completed with 'Listing of Qualifications' (required) attached.
  - Section 3: Completed with 'Short Statements of Support' (optional) attached.
  - Section 4: Completed (required)
  - Section 5: Submitted ON OR PRIOR TO, Sunday July 31, 7

## Listing of Jeff Holland's Qualifications

Jeff Holland is the father of two sons with developmental and intellectual disabilities. His son Chris, age 23, has Down Syndrome, and Ben, age 21, has autism.

Jeff showed his devotion and absolute commitment in providing for and giving his disabled children their best life early on. He was a polite but passionate presence at the IEP table. He advocated for and got the school system to pay for an autism specialist to devise a plan for educational and behavioral improvement for Ben, which was brilliantly successful. When a family move took us to a school system which refused to implement this same IEP, (with disastrous results) he took them to court. The ensuing battle lasted 4 years and ended in Federal court, where a judge instructed the school to settle.

When Medicaid refused to pay for appropriate medically necessary treatment for autism through Applied Behavior Analysis, Jeff went through a series of appeals, each ending in a denial ( despite the Federal Medicaid mandate that all states must pay for ABA if a doctor prescribed it). After Jeff filed a case in court, Medicaid's attorneys expressed that a win for the Hollands would "open the floodgates for every kid to get ABA *whether they needed it or not.*" Jeff's response was that he was ready to open the floodgates. Soon afterward, Governor Pat McCrory announced that Medicaid would be paying for "all necessary medical treatment for autism, including ABA".

Jeff has been an effective disability advocate at the NC Legislature. He crafted a bill which eliminated the role of the State Review Officer in cases brought under the IDEA. The SRO was a person with **no legal background** who was appointed by the State Board of Education to "review" cases appealed after an ALJ's ruling. This egregious conflict of interest came to an end when Jeff's bill, sponsored by Senator Brent Jackson, was passed by the NC Legislature.

Jeff has been intensely involved in creating a future with independence, meaning, and hope for his sons as they have entered adulthood. He successfully oversaw Ben's transition into his own house using the Innovations Waiver's Supported Living Level 3, despite 14 denials from Medicaid. Jeff also became an Employer of Record under Medicaid in order to hire, train, and manage staff. Jeff organized a stakeholder's group of parents overseeing Supported Living Level 3 that regularly meets with Alliance to discuss needed improvements.

Jeff went on to create a support group called PACT (Parents of Adult Children in Transition). Jeff schedules speakers for monthly virtual meetings that delve into areas like employment, residential living options, trusts, guardianship, etc. People from all over the state now join over GoogleMeet to become more informed on these issues.

Jeff is currently collaborating with Johnston Community College to create a program of on-site college academic/job sampling transition services for disabled high schoolers. This will enable students to more fully explore vocational preferences, giving them enhanced opportunities for meaningful and appropriate job placements.

Lastly, Jeff's most recent endeavor addresses the adult residential crisis that the IDD community faces. Jeff has long had a vision for an Intentional Community, where people with disabilities can enjoy common interests and activities in a communal setting, within the context of a non-disabled neighborhood. He sought a developer who had a daughter with autism and who immediately saw the need for such a community. The developer then set apart and donated 10 lots in a project just outside of Smithfield that will be breaking ground this September. He will be providing the infrastructure free of charge. Corporate donations will construct homes built by universal design, and will be completed in about 2 years.

At every juncture where his tireless work has met a need for his sons, Jeff has sought to make a way for that need to be met by all who are facing the same challenge. He has a broad vision for disability advocacy for his own state and beyond. He is what I would call a true friend of the disability community and for all those who love and serve the disabled.

Dotty Foley  
704 Spindlewood  
Pittsboro, NC 27312  
919.452.7224

July 15, 2022

Philip C Woodward, Systems Change Manager  
North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities  
ATTN: NCCDD Advocacy and Leadership Awards  
2010 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-2010

Mr. Woodward:

It is with enthusiasm and great pleasure that I am writing to nominate Jeff Holland for the Helen C. "Holly" Riddle Distinguished Service Award.

As a fellow parent, I am personally and professionally acquainted with Jeff as he and I serve on the Supported Living 2/3 Action Team Workgroup. Within the group, we work together in the subgroup of Supported Living Housing Team.

Jeff is unwavering in his support of other families navigating the system for those with intellectual and developmental disabilities. He created a Facebook group in support of families implementing Employer of Record, which Jeff oversees for his two sons. He has also established a monthly online resource group where various organizations present to parents.

In addition, Jeff has tirelessly devoted his time working with a developer along with the Arc of North Carolina to create a community of homes for people with IDD who want to live in a home of their own within an inclusive community in the Clayton area.

He accomplishes all these endeavors while working full-time.

Jeff's resolute focus, extensive knowledge, kindness, and willingness to help others in the world of I/DD is rare. I highly recommend Jeff Holland for this award.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best wishes,  
Dotty Foley

## Letter of support for Jeff Holland

My name is Matt LeBron, and I have been a direct support person for both of the sons of Jeff Holland over the past 5 years. Providing services to his children in his home has given me a first-hand view of the kind of work he does and the kind of person he is. I can tell you that I have never seen in any one person the passion and drive to serve not only his own children but the larger disability community than I have in Jeff.

I have seen Jeff go to great lengths personally as he became an Employer of Record under Medicaid so that he could hire and manage staff for both of his sons; as he bought a house for one of his sons so that he could have an appropriate adult placement; as he spent countless hours creating support plans, behavior plans, providing training for staff and all the things required of an EOR. It's a full-time job in itself, but he still somehow manages to juggle his own job with all of this, too.

I watch him working to advance the needs of emerging adults with disabilities through his on-line support group of parents that tackles a different subject with guest speakers every month. He pours himself out in making sure that the staff for his boys has what they need, both in training and pay.

With every hurdle that his sons have faced, Jeff has always sought solutions that paved the way for others to benefit. His work to advance an intentional community for adults with disabilities is a great example. It's not just providing a home for one of his sons, he's working to create a community of others who will also have a home. Jeff is the kind of man who leaves no person behind.

His kindness, compassion, and love for the special needs community comes straight from the heart. I have personally witnessed the Holland's struggles, triumphs and day-to-day lives for almost 5 years. I can tell you that Jeff continues to give everything he has to the disabled community, never asking for anything in return. It is an honor to see him achieve his goals that will always benefit others.

Find messages, documents, photos or people



Home

Compose

Back icons JH.docx

Page 1 of 1

- Inbox 20
- Unread
- Starred
- Drafts
- Sent
- Archive
- Spam
- Trash
- Less
- Views Hide
- Photos
- Documents
- Subscriptions
- Shopping
- Receipts
- Travel
- Folders Hide
- + New Folder
- Ben - School
- disability scoop
- special ed advo... 2
- wedding cater...
- wedding music
- wedding venues

Referral for Jeff 9

Yahoo/Inbox

- Tanya Holland Hi, Barbara!! I am wondering if you Tue, Jul 12 at 9:46 PM
- Barbara Lincoln I would be honored. What is th Wed, Jul 13 at 12:23 PM
- Tanya Holland The Council's deadline for subm Wed, Jul 13 at 12:42 PM
- Barbara Lincoln Hello Tanya, I should be able to Wed, Jul 20 at 10:10 AM
- Tanya Holland That's terrific! I have all other pc Wed, Jul 20 at 12:33 PM
- Tanya Holland Hey, Barbara. Don't mean to be Wed, Jul 27 at 11:10 AM

Barbara Lincoln <barbarelincoln@johi To: Tanya Holland

Tanya, My heartfelt apologies and notice the deadline is Sunday so sure hope this is ok. I've been so ill with a sinus infection and going to work is about all I can do.

Here is the letter. Let me know if its ok Barb

Show original message

Note: All email correspondence to and from this address is subject to public review under the NC Public Records Law...



JH.docx

### File not found

Firefox can't find the file at /C:/Users/pcwoodward/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/Content.Outlook/810Y162G/Lincoln rec ltr\_files/saved\_resource(3).html

- Check the file name for capitalization or other typing errors.
- Check to see if the file was moved, renamed or deleted.







## **Jack B. Hefner Memorial Award**

Jack B. Hefner served the State of North Carolina as a member of the North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities (NCCDD) from 1982 until his passing in 1994. As a father to a son with intellectual disabilities, "Big Jack" was willing to do whatever it took to enhance the quality of life for North Carolinians affected by disability. Jack B. Hefner's leadership inspired a generation of advocates and people with I/DD to work forcefully.

On October 27, 1994, the NCCDD established the Jack B. Hefner Award to celebrate the vision and achievement of North Carolina's families and people with I/DD. The Council presents the award annually.

**2023 Nominee**

**Jessica Aguilar**

1

**Woodward, Philip C**

---

**From:** Dempsey, Pamela H  
**Sent:** Monday, August 8, 2022 3:47 PM  
**To:** Woodward, Philip C  
**Subject:** FW: [External] Jack B Hefner Award 2022

Pam Hunter Dempsey  
NC Council on Developmental Disabilities (NCCDD)  
NC Department of Health and Human Services



**Vax Up  Mask Up**

**Find a vaccine location, get questions answered and more at [YourSpotYourShot.nc.gov](https://YourSpotYourShot.nc.gov).**

Office/TTY: 984-920-8209  
Toll Free: 800-357-6916  
[Pam.Dempsey@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:Pam.Dempsey@dhhs.nc.gov)  
<http://www.nccdd.org>

Mailing Address: 2010 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699

New Physical Address (updated February 2022):  
3109 Poplarwood Court, Suite 105  
Raleigh, NC, 27604

Twitter | Facebook | YouTube | LinkedIn

---

Email correspondence to and from this address is subject to the North Carolina Public Records Law and may be disclosed to third parties by an authorized State official. Unauthorized disclosure of juvenile, health, legally privileged, or otherwise confidential information, including confidential information relating to an ongoing State procurement effort, is prohibited by law. If you have received this email in error, please notify the sender immediately and delete all records of this email.

**From:** Sarah Potter <spot1050@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 30, 2022 4:27 PM  
**To:** Dempsey, Pamela H <Pam.Dempsey@dhhs.nc.gov>; Sarah Potter <spot1050@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** [External] Jack B Hefner Award 2022

---

**CAUTION:** External email. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify. Send all suspicious email as an attachment to [Report Spam](#).

---

Pam, I am a fish out of water. I am truly technologically challenged. I am trying to send you all the necessary documents to nominate Jessica Aguilar for the Jack B. Hefner Award for 2022. I am attempting to do it in Google docx. I am having difficulty exporting it to you. I will try to send as attachments. Please let me know if you are missing anything. I know the application was supposed to be an editable PDF file, but it looks screwy on my tablet. Hope you can read it. Thank you for your patience. - Sarah Potter. P.S. My statement/submission to follow shortly in separate email.



Beth Field for Jessica Aguilar.docx



Renita Webb for Jessica Aguilar.docx



Sheila Arias for Jessica Aguilar.docx



NCCDD\_Hefner\_Award\_App\_2022\_e...

Jack B. Hefner  
Memorial Award  
2022 Nomination Application

2022

The Jack B. Hefner Memorial Award honors an outstanding North Carolina advocate whose actions have improved the quality of life for people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities. The award will be presented at the annual meeting of the NC Council on Developmental Disabilities on November 2, 2022 in Cary, NC, beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Section 1. Nomination Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ nominee \_\_\_\_\_ Jessica  
Aguilar \_\_\_\_\_  
Name (as you wish it to appear on the award) \_\_\_\_\_ Jessica  
Aguilar \_\_\_\_\_ Home address 6309 Trevor  
Simpson \_\_\_\_\_  
Dr \_\_\_\_\_  
City Indian Trail \_\_\_\_\_ State  
\_\_\_\_\_ NC \_\_\_\_\_ Zip 28079 \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number (704) 726-  
3156 \_\_\_\_\_ Email  
jessya8212@gmail.com \_\_\_\_\_

The nominee is an:

X \_\_\_\_\_ Family member of a person with an intellectual or other developmental  
disability \_\_\_\_\_ Volunteer (non-professional)

Section 2. Listing of Qualifications

Please attach as a separate document a brief description (not to exceed 300 words) of the qualifications of the nominee for this award. Give specific information about the nominee's activities in improving lives of people with intellectual or other developmental disabilities, including examples of significant contributions and leadership. Please include the following:

- List nominee's advocacy experience
- Areas of strength/experience/achievements in the area of intellectual or other developmental disabilities.
- List nominee's volunteer experience

Section 3. Supporting Information

Identify three individuals who have knowledge of the efforts of the nominee.

NOTE: It is encouraged that individuals submit a short statement (maximum 300 words) in support of the nominee. Statements should include specific examples of work the nominee has done to influence positive change in the lives of people with intellectual and other developmental

disabilities. Name \_\_\_\_\_ Sheila

Arias \_\_\_\_\_

Home 3320 Lassiter

Street address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ City Durham \_\_\_\_\_ State

\_\_\_\_\_ NC Zip \_\_\_\_\_ 27707 Phone number (919) 627-

4224 \_\_\_\_\_ Email

\_\_\_\_\_ Sheila @momsrising.org

2. Name Renita

Webb \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Home address 3101 Poplarwood Ct, Suite

300 \_\_\_\_\_

City Raleigh \_\_\_\_\_ State

\_\_\_\_\_ NC \_\_\_\_\_ Zip 27604 \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number (919) 230-

4659 \_\_\_\_\_ Email

renita@ncchild.org \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_ Name Elizabeth

Field \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Home address 4613 \_\_\_\_\_ Cherrybark

Lane \_\_\_\_\_

City Raleigh \_\_\_\_\_ State

\_\_\_\_\_ NC \_\_\_\_\_ Zip 27616 \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number (360) 608-

3121 \_\_\_\_\_ Email

\_\_\_\_\_ fasdinformed@gmail.com \_\_\_\_\_

Section 4. Personal References (Required)

Identify three (3) individuals as personal references who may be contacted to help evaluate the qualifications of the nominee.

1. Name (Individual #1) Anna  
Cunningham \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone number (919) 623-

6863 \_\_\_\_\_  
Email  
arhams63@gmail.com \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Name (Individual #1) Bob  
Crayton \_\_\_\_\_ Phone  
number (336) 290-  
4538 \_\_\_\_\_  
Email  
bobcrayton007@gmail.com \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Name (Individual #1) Amie  
Brendle \_\_\_\_\_ Phone  
number \_\_ (336) 244-  
3889 \_\_\_\_\_  
Email  
sa100601@gmail.com \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Nomination submitted by:  
Full name Sarah  
Potter \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_ Organization (if applicable) PCFAC, LAND, NC  
WAT \_\_\_\_\_  
Title/relationship to nominee  
Friend \_\_\_\_\_ Home address  
3460 \_\_\_\_\_ Dixiana  
Ln \_\_\_\_\_  
City Pfafftown \_\_\_\_\_ State  
\_\_\_\_ NC \_\_\_\_\_ Zip 27040 \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number (336)409-  
3063 \_\_\_\_\_  
Email spot1050@gmail.com \_\_\_\_\_

I've read and followed the submission guidelines for my application to be considered for the 2022 Advocacy and Leadership Awards. I understand my application will not be considered if the following documents are not completed:

Section 1: Completed

Section 2: Completed with 'Listing of Qualifications' (required) attached. Section

3: Completed with 'Short Statements of Support' (optional) attached. Section 4:

Completed (required)

Submitted ON OR PRIOR TO, Sunday, July 31, 2022.

Submission Options: NOTE: all pages of this application must be submitted by Sunday, July 31, 2022 in one of the three ways:

- Option ONE: Email the application form to Pam Hunter Dempsey, Systems Change Manager, at [pam.dempsey@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:pam.dempsey@dhhs.nc.gov) and [info@nccdd.org](mailto:info@nccdd.org)
- Option TWO: Fax the completed application to 984-920-8201. Please include cover sheet indicating Full Name and total number of pages.
- Option THREE: Mail the application to:

North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities

ATTN: NCCDD Advocacy and Leadership Awards

2010 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-2010

Jessica Aguilar

You don't often find a family advocate as passionate and steadfast as Jessica Aguilar. Her energy, knowledge of I/DD including how to get services and supports, and commitment to families is incredible. Her 10-year old twin boys who are on the autism spectrum are her inspiration and why she wants to help other families navigate our state's systems to get what they need. Originally from El Salvador, Jessica has almost single-handedly used her lived experience with Spanish speaking communities to educate the English speaking ones in North Carolina. We know Jessica by first name after our interactions with her on all of our zoom calls. She is an active member of our LAND Advisory Council which is part of a grant funded by NCCDD. During this first year of our grant, Jessica has found ways to educate us on communicating with the diverse Hispanic/Latino(a) communities in the state: how to listen and gain trust; how to go into their communities rather than inviting them into ours; how to ensure our translations are Hispanic/Latino(a) informed. Unassuming but strong and unwavering in her message, Jessica deserves recognition for her continued contributions to the I/DD community in North Carolina.

Elizabeth Field, M. S.  
Program Director,  
Leadership Alliance for Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LAND)  
Mental Health Transformation Alliance  
Cell/Text: 360 608 3121  
Beth.Field.LAND@gmail.com



Reference:

Renita Webb  
3101 Poplarwood Ct.  
Suite 300  
Raleigh, NC 27604  
919-230-4659  
renita@ncchild.org

Statement

We enthusiastically recommend Jessica Aguilar for the 2022 North Carolina Leadership Achievement Award. Whether she is at a national conference, speaking with parents, at agency meetings, or at supporting a family at an IEP meeting, Jessica makes our state a better place for a kid with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Jessica is a founding member of NC Child's Parent Advisory Council (PAC). She has been outspoken about the needs of children who have unique needs and families who speak languages other than English.

Jessica leads a Spanish peer support group for parents of children on the autism spectrum. Jessica shares information about services and empowers parents to advocate on behalf of their children. Jessica also amplifies the voices of Spanish-speaking parents. She shares their stories and possible solutions to the challenges they face with decision makers and non-profit leaders.

As our state moved to Managed Care, Jessica was an outspoken advocate with DHHS about the importance of ensuring that families have access to timely and accurate information in their native language and about the impact that the move to managed care would have on kids with special needs. Jessica collected dozens of stories about the experiences of children participating in the Medicaid Program with a focus on Spanish-speaking families. She has sat on many panels to share her experience with Medicaid, engaging parents, and working with the Latinx community.

Jessica, along with other PAC Members, presented recommendations for improvements to the Medicaid Program to DHHS leadership, including Sec. Cohen. She has been featured in advocacy campaigns that tell her story about her and her children's experiences with Medicaid. Jessica also raised money for a campaign that she created to provide sensory boxes to children during the holidays. Jessica does all this while parenting and advocating for her twins every day.

Sarah,

I first met Jessica because both of them were selected to participate as parents of Children with Medicaid services. NC Child decided to have selected parents from all over NC to come together and formed the Parent Advisory Council. The purpose was to have a space where we can not only vent about the "good and bad" of Medicaid but also advocate and make policy changes so other families don't have to go through or deal with the things we experienced. This PAC has been active for about 4 or so years. One of the things I will always remember is how positive she was about the group of parents she was already supporting, not just topics like Medicaid but many other programs and resources.

She is the co-founder of the parent Group Poder y Esperanza ( Group Power and Hope). This group supports parents of children with medical needs, and special needs by providing education training and so on. She goes beyond and above to bring opportunities for these parents and allow them to find their "why" I want to support other parents. It has been active for 5 years or so.

Also, she serves in 15+ different groups from organizations, on-the-ground groups, committees, advisories, and so on. For most of these groups, she receives limited stipends due to her status in this country which I don't want to expose without her permission. A lot of the work she does she does because her heart said yes. She would rarely say no to something. before she even knows the full details she said yes. I can testify to that because when I asked her to join the Streeling Committee MamasConPoder she said yes to me. She has been one of the essential volunteers from MomsRising/MamsConPoder. We are so thankful that she has been able to represent MaaaaConPoder/MomsRising on many platforms including speaking with Represented Tills on the importance of eliminating food insecurities in NC. I have also had the opportunity to present "How TO meet Hispanic Families Where they are at " in Florida at The Cafe Family annual conference. This presentation was developed by and supported by MomsRising/MamasConPoder and other opportunities as well.

Jessica is not just the mother of twins with special medical needs and special needs but she is also an important state rising to a national level advocate who knows the struggle has been real. Who understands how barriers like language, culture, finances, and transportation among others are limited and make an impact in families' life like hers. Her authentic powerful stories have allowed her to continue to connect with individuals, build trust, and respect, and work together. Her educational background is sadly only valid in her country as an Economist with Economic development specialist also allowed her to support others in those areas. Over the years our friendship continued to get stronger. I enjoy collaborating and presenting with her.

Few of her certifications

Peer to Peer- NAMI

Blended Adult Mental Health First Aid- Mental Health America

QPR Instructor - QOR Institute

Blended Youth Mental Health First aid: Materials and Certificate - Mental Health America

Clinical Trial Investigator (CTI) Center for the Advancement of Critical Time Intervention (CACTI)

Jessica Aguilar - Nomination for the 2022 Jack B Hefner Memorial Award by the NCCDD

I don't know Jessica well personally, but she is in every meeting I attend advocating for her Spanish speaking community. She is a single mother of twins with autism. As a tireless and passionate advocate, she is determined to make sure all information regarding Medicaid services for the IDD population is in Spanish and plain language. Jessica works with many agencies who assist families with accessing needed services for their children with IDD. She attends statewide DHHS meetings to keep current with all the changes occurring with Medicaid Transformation and the approaching go-live date for the Tailored Plans. A recent example of her influence was the attendance at the NCCDD ADA celebration. There were 8 Spanish speaking family members participating - Talley said a new record! I am taking her work experience from her LinkedIn page because I don't want to leave anything out. She is indefatigable in her advocacy efforts! She belongs to Partners Consumer and Family Advisory Committee and recently joined State CFAC as well. At the state level, she is a member of the DHHS IDD Stakeholder Group, the Tailored Care Management Group, and the Olmstead Plan Stakeholder Advisory. She is part of the Duke University Thriving in Transition Advisory for youth with IDD, a member of the Exceptional Children's Assistance Center, the Special Needs Advisory Council, and an Advisory Council member with NC Child. She is a parent advocate for MomsRising and Grupo Poder y Esperanza, as well as the Local Interagency Coordinating Councils. Jessica also takes extensive training to help her community. She is trained in CIT, CRT for NCCEAL (crisis intervention), and is a QPR Instructor for Mental Health America (suicide prevention). She is also certified in Adult Mental Health First Aid, as well as for Youth. She is a NAMI Peer to Peer instructor and certified CTI (Clinical Trial Investigator). Jessica is an amazing parent, advocate, and community leader who has a huge heart and provides assistance to anyone in need. She is a bright light in North Carolina and deserves to be recognized for the endless contributions she makes to our state and Spanish speaking families in need.

To the Nominating Committee:

I write to express my enthusiastic support for Dr. Madhav Swaminathan's nomination for the Jack B. Hefner Memorial Award.

I am currently a faculty member in the department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Duke University. Much of my clinical work focuses on caring for patients with autism spectrum disorder and I lead various neurodiversity initiatives at Duke. I have had the tremendous honor of collaborating with Dr. Swaminathan as we build initiatives to improve awareness and acceptance of neurodiversity at Duke University. Dr. Swaminathan is a champion of neurodiversity inclusion, forging relationships across the university to improve the lives of our patients, trainees, and colleagues.

As a founder of the Duke Autism Dad's Group, he has created a vibrant community for for "Dads" across the University. This space has led to rich relationships, peer support, and opportunities to strategize and share resources. He has generously connected me to members of the Dad's group, leading to opportunities to create innovative projects, including a recent training for pediatric nurses on Autism spectrum disorders. He is generous with his time, feedback, and support. He is truly committed to initiatives that improve the lives of neurodivergent individuals.

When it comes to neurodiversity at Duke, all roads lead back to Dr. Swaminathan. We are truly lucky to have him as a leader and role model at Duke University.

Sincerely,

Tara Chandrasekhar, MD

**Woodward, Philip C**

---

**From:** Dempsey, Pamela H  
**Sent:** Monday, August 8, 2022 3:47 PM  
**To:** Woodward, Philip C  
**Cc:** Ingram, David  
**Subject:** FW: [External] Sarah Potter - Jack Haefner Memorial Award Nomination  
**Attachments:** NCCDD\_Hefner\_Award\_App\_2022\_editable.pdf; Sarah Potter Nomination.docx

Pam Hunter Dempsey  
NC Council on Developmental Disabilities (NCCDD)  
NC Department of Health and Human Services



**Vax Up**  **Mask Up**

**Find a vaccine location, get questions answered and more at [YourSpotYourShot.nc.gov](https://YourSpotYourShot.nc.gov).**

Office/TTY: 984-920-8209  
Toll Free: 800-357-6916  
[Pam.Dempsey@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:Pam.Dempsey@dhhs.nc.gov)  
<http://www.nccdd.org>

Mailing Address: 2010 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699

New Physical Address (updated February 2022):  
3109 Poplarwood Court, Suite 105  
Raleigh, NC, 27604

Twitter | Facebook | YouTube | LinkedIn

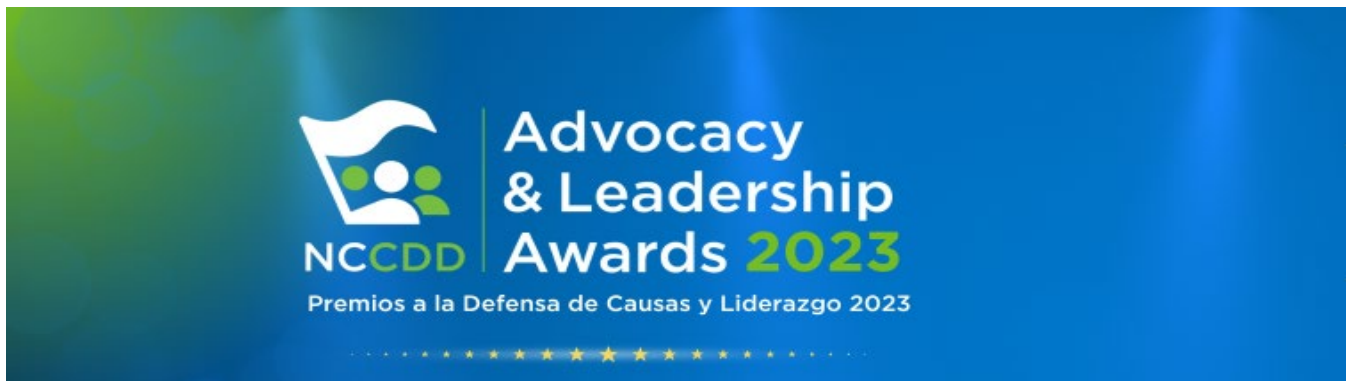
---

Email correspondence to and from this address is subject to the North Carolina Public Records Law and may be disclosed to third parties by an authorized State official. Unauthorized disclosure of juvenile, health, legally privileged, or otherwise confidential information, including confidential information relating to an ongoing State procurement effort, is prohibited by law. If you have received this email in error, please notify the sender immediately and delete all records of this email.

**From:** Bill Donohue <[wrdonohue1982@gmail.com](mailto:wrdonohue1982@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, July 15, 2022 7:16 PM  
**To:** Dempsey, Pamela H <[Pam.Dempsey@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:Pam.Dempsey@dhhs.nc.gov)>  
**Subject:** [External] Sarah Potter - Jack Haefner Memorial Award Nomination

CAUTION: External email. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify. Send all suspicious email as an attachment to [Report Spam](#).

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows



## **Jack B. Hefner Memorial Award**

Jack B. Hefner served the State of North Carolina as a member of the North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities (NCCDD) from 1982 until his passing in 1994. As a father to a son with intellectual disabilities, "Big Jack" was willing to do whatever it took to enhance the quality of life for North Carolinians affected by disability. Jack B. Hefner's leadership inspired a generation of advocates and people with I/DD to work forcefully.

On October 27, 1994, the NCCDD established the Jack B. Hefner Award to celebrate the vision and achievement of North Carolina's families and people with I/DD. The Council presents the award annually.

**2023 Nominee**

**Sarah Potter**

**Jack B. Hefner  
Memorial Award  
2022 Nomination Application**



**Advocacy  
& Leadership  
Awards 2022**

The Jack B. Hefner Memorial Award honors an outstanding North Carolina advocate whose actions have improved the quality of life for people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities. The award will be presented at the annual meeting of the NC Council on Developmental Disabilities on November 2, 2022 in Cary, NC, beginning at 5:30 p.m.

**Section 1. Nomination Form**

Name of nominee Sarah Potter

Name (as you wish it to appear on the award) Sarah Potter

Home address Dixiana LN,

City Pffafftown

State NC

Zip 27040

Phone number 336-409-3063

Email spot1050@gmail.com

The nominee is an:

Family member of a person with an intellectual or other developmental disability

Volunteer (non-professional)

**Section 2. Listing of Qualifications**

Please attach as a separate document a brief description (not to exceed 300 words) of the qualifications of the nominee for this award. Give specific information about the nominee's activities in improving lives of people with intellectual or other developmental disabilities, including examples of significant contributions and leadership. Please include the following:

- List nominee's advocacy experience
- Areas of strength/experience/achievements in the area of intellectual or other developmental disabilities.
- List nominee's volunteer experience

**Section 3. Supporting Information**

Identify **three** individuals who have knowledge of the efforts of the nominee.

NOTE: It is encouraged that individuals submit a short statement (maximum 300 words) in support of the nominee. Statements should include specific examples of work the nominee has done to influence positive change in the lives of people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities.

1. Name Mary Miller

Home address 2037 Claybourne Dr

City Winston Salem

State NC

Zip 27103

Phone number 336-770-9075

Email mtmiller07@aol.com



---

2. Name Jeff Payne  
Home address 4407 Southport Rd  
City Greensboro State NC Zip 27410  
Phone number 336-623-0776 Email jmpayne7691@gmail.com

3. Name Tim Gallagher  
Home address 709 Surrey Path Trail  
City Winston Salem State NC Zip 27104  
Phone number 571-213-8620 Email timgallagherllc@gmail.com

**Section 4. Personal References (Required)**

Identify **three** (3) individuals as personal references who may be contacted to help evaluate the qualifications of the nominee.

1. Name (Individual #1) Jeff Payne  
Phone number 336-623-0776  
Email jmpayne7691@gmail.com

2. Name (Individual #1) Mary Miller  
Phone number 336-770-9075  
Email mtmiller07@aol.com

3. Name (Individual #1) Deborah Woolard  
Phone number 336-655-8049  
Email dgwoolard@gmail.com

Nomination submitted by:  
Full name William R. Donohue  
Organization (if applicable) NC Waiver Action Team  
Title/relationship to nominee Neighbor, Colleague, Teammmate, Friend  
Home address 4049 Max Dr  
City Winston Salem State NC Zip 27106  
Phone number 336-692-8828  
Email wrdonohue1982@gmail.com

---

I've read and followed the submission guidelines for my application to be considered for the 2022 Advocacy and Leadership Awards. I understand my application will not be considered if the following documents are not completed:

- Section 1: Completed
- Section 2: Completed with 'Listing of Qualifications' (required) attached.
- Section 3: Completed with 'Short Statements of Support' (optional) attached.
- Section 4: Completed (required)
- Submitted ON OR PRIOR TO, Sunday, July 31, 2022.

Submission Options: NOTE: all pages of this application must be submitted by Sunday, July 31, 2022 in one of the three ways:

- **Option ONE:** Email the application form to Pam Hunter Dempsey, Systems Change Manager, at [pam.dempsey@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:pam.dempsey@dhhs.nc.gov) and [info@nccdd.org](mailto:info@nccdd.org)
- **Option TWO:** Fax the completed application to 984-920-8201. Please include cover sheet indicating Full Name and total number of pages.
- **Option THREE:** Mail the application to:  
North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities  
ATTN: NCCDD Advocacy and Leadership Awards  
2010 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-2010

**Jack Hefner Award Nomination: Section #2 Qualifications**

***Sarah Potter***, Pfafftown, NC spot1050@gmail.com

For three years running, Sarah Potter has participated in nominating the Jack Hefner award recipient and/or shared in the Disability Rights NC Champion's awards. She has either begun the process with the nomination or followed the lead with letters of support. What does that say about her? She's connected to our precious community: grateful for kindred spirits; generous in praise; humble and selfless in every aspect of her being.

It's time she was recognized for her countless hours as advocate, listener, cross-agency conduit, and friend to so many caught in desperate circumstances, fraught with economic confusion, befuddled with inconsistency and unresponsive bureaucracies... and occasionally needing a good laugh. Sarah is the glue that many of us count on to clarify the mess, share our snarky cynicism, and breath hope into our vision for our organizations, families, and loved ones in need. For decades she has served on the Triad's I/DD Advisory and to her three LME/MCOs, sharing as a lifelong advocate the frank and prescient knowledge of statewide policy potential and shortcomings. She has held several offices and been a constant presence in local and regional CFACs and consultant to LME/MCO leadership. She is the co-founder of the NC Waiver Action Team and has been at the forefront of policy and service definition collaboratives across our region and state. As faculty for "Partners in Policy," she has been far more than "Matt's Mom, scribe and driver."

While marshaling the energy for the above, Sarah volunteered weekly for 5 years to facilitate Centers for Independence, driving disabled adults to community events and experiences. For the past eight years, every Wednesday evening, she co-facilitates the award-winning Next Chapter Book Club for adults with disabilities. And still, this past year she dedicated Friday mornings to an activist with quadriplegia from Massachusetts who offered to help North Carolina!

We have known each other since our "children" were Wake Forest Students leading their peers in disability advocacy. These former students have since won awards for their work in advocacy training, organizational development, and fund raising for people with disabilities. They also serve as co-facilitators on the NCCDD Registry Initiative WorkGroups as leaders in the NC Waiver Action Team. They have built reputations at national conferences, international gatherings, and grass roots North Carolina kitchen tables. Behind it all has been the nurturing, nudging, no-nonsense encouragement of Sarah. She is a force that continues to give every day.

Her work is worthy of a life-time achievement award, those appropriately rare but huge awards that transcend our annual recognitions. She is special. We hope you will consider her exceptional qualifications the same way we honor her every day at our house and in our lives.

Bill Donohue, PhD. 336-692-8828

Pam Dempsey  
Systems Change Manager  
North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities  
Attn: NCDDE Advocacy and Leadership Awards  
2010 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, N.C. 27699-2010

Dear Ms. Dempsey,

I believe my friend, Sarah Patten is worthy of the Jack B. Heffner Award. I have known Sarah and worked with her advocating for services in IDD, M.H and SUD for the past ten years.

Shortly after CenterPoint became an MCO, I joined CFAC, Sarah and her son were members as well as Matt being on the CenterPoint Board. Then when CenterPoint joined Cardinal we both became members of Cardinal's Triad CFAC and their Executive CFAC. We upped our Triad CFAC membership, worked with consumers to resolve problems, kept our Fourth County Commissioners aware of waitlist and DD P problems.

2/ At the CFAC we were vocal in problems with Board representation and lack of consumer/family involvement in decision making. Sarah kept copious notes on all meetings which was an enormous help.

Sarah was instrumental in reestablishing a Forsyth IDD advisory committee. She worked to establish a Waitlist Committee - Sarah helped organize a local meeting at our main library to address problems. The meeting was packed. Sarah attends many zoom meetings on the state level and national level and keeps us all informed.

Sarah reaches out to other disabilities, she attends the Forsyth Mental Health Collaborative and the MH/IDD advisories not only to support them, but to keep us informed on IDD happenings and get our support.

Sarah is warm, loving and welcoming. She is great working with peer support people learning the system. Sarah is a trusted and loyal friend.

Sarah is the person in Forsyth County that everyone goes to for help for any disability challenges.

My daughter's diagnosis is schizophrenia, Sarah has united us and informed us on IDD funding, services received on the waiver and b3 and lack of services. The problems with DSP salaries, staffing. She has arranged with me two visits from Donny Lambeth to address these issues. She has a warm relationship with our county commissioners, she works with Partners. <sup>all</sup> ~~Cent of~~ This is only the small way that I know Sarah. Sarah is the brightest, kindest, most loving human being I know. And hard working to improve services.

Sincerely  
Mary Terrell Miller

336 7602972