



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Garden Friends School Teacher Receives the 2017 Governor's Volunteer Service Award

Beth Defilippis, a first and second grade teacher at New Garden Friends School, is one of four recipients from Guilford County to receive the 2017 Governor's Volunteer Service Award. The award honors citizens who have shown concern and compassion for their neighbors by making a significant contribution to their community through volunteer service. Beth is recognized for leading a service group of students that worked closely with the Interactive Resource Center throughout the year providing socks, toiletries, snacks, and other resources for people experiencing homelessness.

The Volunteer Center, Guilford County's Coordinator for the Governor's Volunteer Service Awards expressed, "This group has not only had a great impact on our most vulnerable neighbors through their work with the Interactive Resource Center, but has provided the students with a deeper understanding of poverty and homelessness."

Beth was presented the award on Friday, May 26, during the School's Meeting for Worship (a Quaker service). Michelle Kennedy from the Interactive Resource Center and Erin Kennedy from the Volunteer Center recognized Beth for her leadership, dedication, and student engagement.

Head of Lower School Carolyn Vallejos at New Garden Friends School said, "This service learning opportunity is so meaningful to our students. We are appreciative of the leadership Beth has provided with this service group, and with the partnership New Garden Friends School has with the Interactive Resource Center."

Service learning is a cornerstone of an NGFS education. Service begins in kindergarten and continues throughout a student's time at the School. Elementary age students engage in service learning weekly, both on and off campus. Learning occurs through active engagement with the

concerns of others; students come to own these skills and as they grow, they become aware of the needs of the community.

New Garden Friends School seeks to be an inclusive, innovative educational community guided by Quaker beliefs and committed to honoring and developing each person's gifts.

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