

# Small Acts Can Be Valuable Assets in Cumberland County

*By Kenneth Edge*

Throughout my professional life as a teacher, a school principal, a school board member and as a county commissioner, I've seen firsthand the work that is accomplished in our community by volunteers. Whether it's helping a child with reading, or assisting an elderly patient at the hospital, or working with a church or an advocacy organization, citizens quietly go about doing good works that make Cumberland County a better place to be.

I have long thought that there should be some way to acknowledge these special people, something more than even a sincere "Thank you." They are, for the most part, generous and kind people who want to contribute to a better quality of life for all of us. They don't seek praise, thanks or recognition. But they certainly deserve all of that.

For that reason, Cumberland County commissioners are launching a county-wide initiative to focus each month on individuals, groups or agencies to publicly thank and acknowledge the contribution made. The event will take place at our second scheduled County Commissioners meeting of every month. Not only will all the commissioners be aware of the contribution, but so will those citizens who attend our meetings and those who watch on television. It will be a brief opportunity to acknowledge the accomplishment and perhaps inspire others.

I am asking citizens to nominate an individual, group or agency who has had a positive effect on the community by sending the name and a description of what kind of work the volunteer does to Marsha Fogle, the Clerk to the Board of Commissioners. We also ask that you include your name and contact information. Nomination forms will be available at every meeting of the commissioners, or a form can be downloaded from the county's website. A committee has been formed of three citizens who are familiar with caring efforts in the community to select from the nominees.

It is our desire, as citizens, to learn from others' successes, become involved and continue to make Cumberland County a place known for its generosity and commitment.

This program will be known as "Cumberland County Cares." It is a small gesture, but it comes from the heart of a grateful community.

*Kenneth Edge is the Chairman of the Cumberland County Commission. Nominations for the "Cumberland County Cares" award may be sent to Marsha Fogle at PO Box 1829, Fayetteville, NC 28302, using the downloadable form on the county's website, [www.co.cumberland.nc.us](http://www.co.cumberland.nc.us).*