



Sample Volunteer Nomination

The mission of Welcome Home is to serve those experiencing homelessness and to provide crisis intervention to those at risk of homelessness. Since our founding 35 years ago, Haywood Mills has been involved in virtually all capacities of our organization. He started with the predecessor service at his home church when a small group of volunteers opened Sunday School rooms once a week to offer a listening ear to those in financial crisis and then made phone calls to individuals, community organizations and other congregations with benevolent funds to cover person's immediate need.

Recognizing the need in the community due to changes in the local economy as a result of the closing of major employers, Haywood was a founder of Welcome Home, using his gifts of calm collaboration to bring together representatives of more than 15 congregations to form a board of directors to launch and fund the organization. What began as an organization with only 1 employee and a budget of less than \$50,000 has grown into one of 35 full time equivalents and a budget close to \$2 million. With each step towards a broader scope of service and increased needs for resource development, Haywood has risen to the task of serving an organization and community he loves.

What makes Haywood stand out in a well-regarded, now well-established, community resource is not limited to his long and faithful service; it is his creative humility that enables him to see each barrier as an opportunity to encourage his friends and neighbors to further serve.

Haywood was already retired when he began serving at his home church 35 years ago so by now he has reached a rather advanced age (90.) This has not limited his passion and compassion. This year he wrote a personal history of his experience with Welcome Home that served to provide the "back story" of our organization for those unfamiliar with it but more importantly provided a template for what became a very successful capital campaign case for support. In our quiet phase, with Haywood's history in hand, our early stakeholders raised \$2 million in one week. With that we were able to launch our community ask and raise the rest of the funding needed to build a new, expanded facility to better deliver our services. It pains us to admit that we are now serving the second and sometimes, third generation of families in need in our area, but without one man's story, that task would have much more difficult. It is for this reason that we nominate Haywood Mills to be our Volunteer of the Year.