

Ladies and gentlemen,

Today, as we gather to celebrate the incredible contributions of our volunteers, I would like to share a personal story that truly highlights the impact of their selfless efforts.

A few months ago, I met Maria, a volunteer at our local community center. One rainy afternoon, as she prepared for her weekly art class for children, she noticed a little girl sitting alone in the corner. The girl, Lily, was new to the neighborhood and was struggling to fit in. Maria, with her warm smile and gentle nature, sat down beside her and started drawing. She showed Lily how to blend colors, encouraging her with every stroke.

Over the weeks, Lily blossomed under Maria's guidance, not just in art, but in confidence. Watching this transformation was a reminder of the profound difference one person can make through kindness and dedication. Our volunteers, much like Maria, are the heart and soul of our community. They provide time, energy, and love without expecting anything in return. Their work often goes unrecognized, but today, we are here to honor each and every one of them.

Thank you for your unwavering support and for being the mentors, friends, and unsung heroes we all need. Our community is richer because of you. Thank you.