

**From:** [Annette French](#)  
**To:** [Carol Stoddard](#)  
**Subject:** Award Nominee Melissa Gentry  
**Date:** Monday, January 10, 2022 2:23:04 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Good afternoon Carol,

Thank you so much for getting back with me.

These are all good questions and I will explain to the best of my ability without tipping her off. I can keep a secret.

1. She does NOT work for a nursing home. She is a volunteer.
2. I think this is the only nursing home she volunteers at: The Ashford Hall Long Term Care, 2021 Shoaf Drive, Irving, 75061. I believe she still has a relative residing there, and she endured a family friend loss, so Ashford Hall has a special meaning and connection.
3. The Easter Bunny occasion was a selfless act she did along with her partner independently. "Selfless" meaning that she arranged/organized/implored a family member to dress in costume and pass out candy and wave at traffic in her Irving neighborhood. I think this was a(n) one-time event (pre-COVID). It was not orchestrated by a nonprofit or through a school, she just jumped on the opportunity to rent the costume and take it to the next level, by going outside and sharing with the public/community. I couldn't find pictures of this, but I learned about it on FB. It is comic relief yet sincere and heartfelt. I think the weather was very uncooperative that day too!
4. The primary project I learned about is the undertaking of this [Sunshine Wall](#)>

Initially, this project at Ashford Hall began with placing birdfeeders outside all the windows of residents. This was not only an effort to beautify the scenery, but to bring nature and chirping joy to the residents. Melissa coordinated the approval, purchase, and volunteers, to erect the stands and kept a schedule to replenish the birdseed.

*Then*, the back wall facing the western side was discovered and she collaborated with the artist Mr. Eder Martinez, another Irving native, "to bring it to life".

Hence the "You are my Sunshine" Wall Project took off and she explained in detail her endeavor in this gofundme post.

She came in underbudget, and only utilized one volunteer artist. I haven't met him, but I know it took several months last year to get it done!!!

[Fundraiser by Melissa Gentry : "You Are My Sunshine" Wall - Ashford Hall \(gofundme.com\)](#)

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Please note that she almost reached her goal, yet more importantly the wall is complete and the video highlights this achievement. <https://youtu.be/WPRmchpYuyQ>.

5. Other volunteer projects included:

A. Hosting a Veterans dinner @ Tio Carlos highlighting vets from different branches. This was pre-Covid. (2017) It was well-attended too.

B. Last fall, she hosted a kindness craft day @ Ashford Hall. ( See photo: I donated the balloons seen here from my Kindness project to her project.)

This Kindness Day had kids and teens come out and color, paint, write notes, draw, and design artwork to show appreciation and share their kind talents.

She purchased and/or collected the materials to use that day and volunteers made some for the staff as well.

C. I am sure there are many more volunteer events that I am not aware of, since I am not in her inner social network of contacts, just learning via social media. I just know she has a giving and pleasant spirit. I am so proud to nominate her, as she inspired me to produce my KINDNESS project on World Kindness Day in November 2021. Please see below.

This is the link to my Kindness project, since I couldn't attend hers, I created my own. [An Irving, TX Kindness Project: Honoring Yates, Singley, Stanton, Townsell and Farrow - YouTube](#).

Thank you again for reaching out and I hope I provided enough clarity. If not, I can investigate deeper by asking around, if you want. I can wear many hats!!

Overall, I hope she gets selected.

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Best,

Annette French

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