

2023 Hall of Fame Inductee

INGRID MCNAIR

Written by Alexandra Pickard

Ingrid McNair has faced and conquered adversity to help improve the education and lives of children while inspiring them to use their voices to create change. From 1999 to 2014, she improved the lives of many in Henderson County with the hard work she put into running the Historic Johnson Farm from. Her role as the administrative assistant, and later farm coordinator allowed her to make changes that improved everyone's experience and left them wanting to come back. Currently, she spends her time volunteering, being an avid board member, and animal caretaking at the farm.

McNair was in charge of handling the financial aspect to improve the farm, along with being in charge of the ten historic buildings and fifteen acres of land. While serving on the committee in 2005, she received a \$25,000 grant to help with restoration of the 1880 farmhouse.

Her vital role in obtaining a \$20,000 grant for restoring the boarding house, that served as the new location for the Heritage Weavers and Fiber Artists, was crucial for their 2008 move into the farm. Bringing those weavers and artists to the farm gives the students an opportunity to learn about art and craftsmanship in history from those who specialize in it.

In 2010, McNair proposed and manufactured a replica schoolhouse to those from 1900, making it so students didn't have to cross the street to visit the Rugby School replica. Her behind the scene tasks of cleaning up after visits, painting walls, all to keep this location up to the pristine conditions, reflects the dedication and care she has for all she does.

McNair's love for animals and nature blossomed at Johnson farm. She cared for the chickens, sheep, the adored horses, and for the longest time, her darling donkeys. The animal care-taking tasks were not part of the job she was hired for, but she took over the duties and demonstrated that love can be fundamental to what you do, even if it is extra. These animals brought her much joy and after she retired she did not stop sharing that love for them. To this day, she shows up at the farm every morning and every evening, seven days a week, 365 days a year to care for donkeys, and the latest addition of goats.

McNair's passion is admired by everyone that has had the opportunity to learn about who she is and the life she has, and continues to live. Shirley McGee said it best, "Her impact cannot be measured and the countless volunteers who have worked alongside her can attest to the real guidance and deep love she has given. McNair, in her humble way, would not be seeking recognition, but I cannot think of anyone who deserves it more."

Ingrid McNair has accomplished so much through desire, compassion, and love that she puts into everything she does, while continuing to grow an outstanding legacy for herself.