

WAYNE HAMILTON BLANKS SERVICE IN RECOVERY AWARD

The Wayne Hamilton Blanks Service in Recovery Award was developed to honor Wayne Blanks, a former Chair of the RBHA Board of Directors. During his life, Mr. Blanks became known in the local, state, and national addiction-recovery community for his service and leadership. In addition to his role with RBHA, Mr. Blanks and his wife founded Richmond Aftercare II Inc., and he served on the Board of Directors for the McShin Foundation and the Substance Abuse and Addiction Recovery Alliance of Virginia. He also served on the Richmond Behavioral Health Foundation Board of Directors. Before his untimely death, Mr. Blanks celebrated 22 years of living clean.

This award was established in 2016 and is given in the name of Wayne Blanks, to honor his spirit and character and to remind all of us that recovery is indeed possible.

2023 RECIPIENT: **VANESSA WINCKLER**

Vanessa is a woman in long-term recovery and currently works as a Peer Recovery Coach in RBHA's Recovery Plus program. Vanessa utilizes her lived-experience and education to provide a wide array of recovery support services to people struggling with addiction.

Vanessa has built a life as an advocate, sponsor, and mentor for many people in the recovery community. By those who know her, both personally and professionally, she is described as committed, passionate, honest, understanding, respectful, and empathetic...to name a few.

Her commitment to helping others on their recovery journey seems limitless. We are proud to have Vanessa as part of the RBHA Family.



Vanessa Winckler

2023 Award Recipient

Pictured with Dr. John Lindstrom, CEO