



Bridge - The Game That Gives Back

Hill Receives the 2026 ACBL Charity Foundation Volunteer of the Year Award

Members of the Aileen Osofsky Goodwill Committee gathered in Minneapolis on Monday to celebrate the recipients of four annual awards: Honorary Member of the Year, Volunteer of the Year, Charity Foundation Volunteer of the Year and Goodwill Member of the Year.

Joyce Martin Hill of Blythewood, SC was selected by the ACBL Charity Foundation as the 2026 Charity Foundation Volunteer of the Year.



Joyce Martin Hill

A bout with appendicitis several years ago set Joyce Hill on a mission. An overburdened emergency room was slow to identify her problem and help her. After her emergency surgery, she looked into the systemic problems that create delays in emergency care.

Determined to improve the system, Hill traveled throughout the U.S. studying emergency departments. Her research eventually led to a lasting legacy. In 2013, Prisma Health opened a new emergency mental health center bearing her name, inspired by her vision of improving care for patients experiencing mental health crises. Hill donated \$800,000 toward the project and helped the Palmetto Health Foundation raise another \$800,000. That accomplishment is only one chapter in a lifetime devoted to serving others.

Hill's commitment to service began early, starting with paper drives in elementary school. In graduate school, she worked at a crisis center near Duke, where she was trained to focus on listening to callers.

Over the years, Hill has served on numerous nonprofit boards, including the South Carolina Ballet, the Columbia Museum of Art, Historic Columbia, the U.S. Equestrian Team and the U.S. Eventing Association.

Hill has also been one of Patty Tucker's earliest supporters in bringing bridge into schools, starting with Atlanta Junior Bridge and now Jump Start Bridge. She believes bridge gives academically minded children an opportunity to excel.

Hill learned bridge as a child and began playing seriously in 1998. After winning the Mini-Spingold in 2008, she began playing women's events with Jenny Wolpert, winning several more NABC titles the next few years. In recent years she's been playing with Kevin Dwyer Rimstedt, with whom she won the Freeman Mixed Board-a Match Teams in 2022.

"She has a massive heart," Dwyer Rimstedt said.

Hill was presented by Kathy Kimmerling of the Charity Foundation, who provided some context about the organization and the award.

"The Charity Foundation is an independent entity from the ACBL that is funded by ACBL Charity Games, including the Gold for Good games and private donations," said Kimmerling. "The foundation is tasked with giving back to communities where our players live and play. This is done by awarding grants and making funds available to the districts on a rotational basis.



ACBL Charity Foundation
Secretary Kathy Kimmerling with
Joyce Hill, 2026 Volunteer of the
Year

"Two years ago, ACBL Executive Director Bronia Jenkins offered the foundation the opportunity to recognize a bridge player for their philanthropic work. This year, I am pleased to announce that our honoree is Joyce Martin Hill, who has been a longtime leader in her community in the arts, medicine, mental health, education, sports and animals – and a longtime supporter of Patty Tucker's Jump Start Bridge program. I'd like to thank Tucker for her recommendation."



Accompanying Hill to the Awards Dinner
were friends and teammates, (left to right)
Cecilia Rimstedt, Kevin Dwyer Rimstedt,
Hill and Jenny Wolpert

Hill took the stage and accepted the award. "Thank you very much. I feel very honored and humbled to receive this award," said Hill. "Actually, my friends asked me what the award was, and I said, 'I think a piece of paper,' so I'm really thrilled