



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

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For more information contact:
Brendan Ash, Communications & Design Director
YMCA of South Hampton Roads
E bash@ymcashr.org P 757 275 9443

YMCA of South Hampton Roads Honors Local Volunteers for Service to Youth

NORFOLK, JANUARY 27 – Whether a coach, board member, or just a caring member of the community, local YMCA volunteers were celebrated for being the heart and soul of the YMCA of South Hampton Roads during the YMCA's Annual Meeting at the Norfolk Waterside Marriott on January 27. The following volunteers, who played a vital role in the development of local youth this past year, were honored with a YMCA Service-to-Youth Award.

Great Bridge/Hickory Family YMCA – LCDR Timothy J. Connors

LCDR Timothy J. Connors has been a volunteer with the Great Bridge/Hickory Family YMCA's Hurricane Swim Team for three years. Tim takes the time to make sure all swimmers learn both sports skills and life skills. His drive to ensure each child has a positive experience is inspiring. Tim is an Officer in the United States Coast Guard, and he and his wife have four beautiful children. Tim leads a dedicated life to his career and family yet still chooses to take the time to volunteer at the Y.

Greenbrier North YMCA Wellness & Racquetball Center – Richard Green

Richard Green first came to the Y to find a place where he could belong. He quickly met other members and staff at Greenbrier North YMCA Wellness & Racquetball Center and developed many lasting relationships. He has helped with landscaping, served as a handyman, and has been a key member of the coffee club. He now calls the Y not just a place where he belongs, but also his family. Congratulations to Richard Green as the Service to Youth award recipient.

Greenbrier Family YMCA – Brian Smith

Brian Smith grew up playing and loving the game of basketball. He first came to the Greenbrier Family YMCA in 2009 with his son to inquire about coaching. With Brian's passion for the game, he thought since he could no longer play competitively, the next best thing would be to coach and help kids learn how to play. Brian not only began coaching, but he also became a Y member. He completed Y-Change twice and agreed to become a *We Build People* annual gifts storyteller, helping his team raise over \$6,000 in 2010.

Eastern Shore Family YMCA – George Parker

In addition to professional responsibilities as first a teacher and now an administrator, George has coached several sports and spent a great deal of time helping teens. If you walk into the fitness center on any afternoon you can find George helping young people who are trying to maintain their personal fitness. George's commitment to serving kids is so strong that when he had a personal tragedy, one evening a group of 20 young men showed up at the Y to show their support. His selfless nature and great attitude make him a more than deserving award winner.

James L. Camp, Jr. Family YMCA – Jamie Weist

The Y has been an important part of Jamie's life since the age of 5 when he first started playing sports. He remembers the people who cared to take the time to coach and teach him; these volunteers had an impact on who he is today. Jamie began volunteering as a soccer coach at age 17 and has continued to serve the Y throughout the years also coaching baseball and basketball. He has also been a past member of the board serving as Chairman of Building & Grounds. Jamie recognizes that valuable time spent with youth today is an investment in our future.

YMCA Camp Silver Beach – David Hamberg

Dave has been a member of the Y for the past 30 years. He has served on the Camp Silver Beach Board of Directors as a Board Member, Board Chair, Finance Committee Chair and Property Committee Chair. He has given time and resources to Camp for the past 12 years. He has been faithful in soliciting gifts to ensure children in need have the opportunity to attend camp. Dave works hard to create awareness of the value of the camp experience.

Albemarle Family YMCA - Jamie Kobiela

Jamie serves as a lifeguard at the Y, but her most valuable work is not on the clock. Jamie volunteers as a swim team coach. Often, up to 20 hours a week, she will be found on the pool deck, surrounded by a huddle of wet swimmers in swim caps, demonstrating the correct technique for rotary breathing. Jamie has played a critical role in allowing the swim team to grow to over 100 swimmers.

Outer Banks Family YMCA – Dave Dowdy

Dave's interest in fitness started at a young age. He had a chronic case of asthma and after visits to Duke, was diagnosed as being allergic to many things. He endured many years of medicinal treatment and was unable to play Little League; that is when he became inspired to eat better and to get into fitness. He believes that exercise and eating well have been the reasons for his good health. Dave has also been a strong volunteer for the Y in 2010.

Blocker Norfolk Family YMCA - TuTu "Mary Ruth" Maggard

As our volunteer coordinator, TuTu is always looking for new projects. An artist and actress by trade, TuTu uses her creativity to help children build self-esteem through art projects. She has become mentor to a number of teens, helping them find their own voice. TuTu faithfully calls our new members to welcome them, bringing warmth to our Y. She also launched our 1st Annual All Member Best Ever Art Show last spring and co-hosted our monthly Guest Speaker Breakfast Series.

Community Services - LeeAnn Padgett

LeeAnn has been a mentor to a young girl named Jazmine for several years. Four years ago, LeeAnn learned about the Community Services YMCA and asked that Jazmine and her brother be a part of the summer program, *Escape to the Arts*. LeeAnn attended their annual summer performance at Campostella Elementary and she was hooked; LeeAnn has been an invaluable member of the board ever since. She has chaired the annual fundraising event for the past two years, as well as coordinated board giving, and represents the YMCA at many community events.

Effingham Street Family YMCA - Tina Lea

Tina has been an active board member of the Effingham Street Family YMCA since 1996. She was initially recruited by a board member because of her love and support of youth in the underserved community. Tina also served as on the Y's International Committee which fosters international relationships and youth exchange/mission travel with YMCAs in Germany and Brazil. Over the years she has supported many youth organizations and initiatives to facilitate strong character and future leaders among youth in Hampton Roads.

Suffolk Family YMCA – Jennifer Gaines

A happily married mother of 3 children, Jennifer has unselfishly given endless volunteer hours to guarantee an atmosphere of family, fun and friendships for the Suffolk Family YMCA Aquatics Department and Swim Team Program. Jennifer has worn the hat of team mom, party planner, counselor, referee, recruiter, comforter and more. There is no one more deserving of this prestigious award for the Suffolk Family YMCA.

Taylor Bend Family YMCA – Christian Rangel

As a volunteer in our community, Christian has tutored a Spanish-speaking student and helped coach his middle school soccer team. Around the Y, Christian has been a member of Leaders Club for over a year, volunteered for special events, and is passionate about the *We Build People* campaign. He has shared his Y story with our group exercise classes, in staff meetings and at Leaders Club meetings. Christian says it gives him personal satisfaction to be able to make a difference in someone's life.

The First Tee of Hampton Roads – Robert "Trip" Bose

Since he began his golfing career in 2001, Trip has grown tremendously through the game, but more importantly, by learning the life skills and character values taught at The First Tee. Trip has participated in numerous Life Skills Academies, and was a participant in The First Tee Open held at Pebble Beach. In

2010, Trip was chosen for the TORO Future Leaders Forum held in Orlando and has also been named a The First Tee Scholar. Trip is avidly involved in giving back as a coach and mentor and is a role model for other kids.

Hilltop Family YMCA – Anthony Cass

For the past four years, his name has been a fixture in the Hilltop Family YMCA Youth Sports program. His guiding hand and reassuring voice has made him the most requested volunteer coach each season. Parents love his dedication to teaching the children about sportsmanship and the children love his ability to make everything including practicing fun. "AC" is committed to building a positive child-adult relationship, which is an important principle in YMCA youth programs. His caring heart and actions make it more likely that the children will continue to participate in sports throughout their lives.

Indian River Family YMCA – Joe Sapere

Joe is a familiar face around the Indian River Family YMCA. His first experience with the Y was in 1953; at only 13 years old, Joe was recognized for his volunteer work with teens. Nowadays Joe volunteers as a spin class teacher and *We Build People* campaigner. Joe has had the same members attending his cycling class since 2002! Joe loves the Indian River Family YMCA for its small community and family feel, which Joe has helped to create.

Mt. Trashmore Family YMCA – Florence Braxton

"Braxton" was diagnosed with Sarcoidosis in 1995. She lost two brothers to the disease and five out of seven siblings have been diagnosed with the same disease. Braxton has had both hips and shoulders replaced twice, and took many medications. In 2010, she joined the Y; that was the beginning of what she refers to as her new life. Nearly 10 months later, Braxton is down in pounds and has reduced her medications. Her gratitude for the difference the Y has made in her life has encouraged her to become an advocate for the Y. She volunteered as a youth soccer coach, and encourages others to participate in Y-Change, FitQuest and group exercise and more!

Volunteer-led and volunteer-driven, the YMCA of South Hampton Roads hopes this recognition of leadership and selflessness will inspire others to become more involved in our community, realizing that one person can make a powerful difference. For more information about volunteer opportunities with the YMCA call 757 962 5555 or visit www.ymcashr.org.

ABOUT THE YMCA OF SOUTH HAMPTON ROADS

The YMCA of South Hampton Roads is a nonprofit, community-based health and human services organization that serves over 205,000 children and families each year. More than 23% of those families receive financial assistance through the Open Doors program, helping them achieve their full potential in spirit, mind and body. The YMCA's doors are open to people of all ages, backgrounds, abilities and incomes.

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