



YMCA of South Hampton Roads

We build strong kids, strong families, strong communities.

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Virginia Beach Couple Selected for Top YMCA Volunteer Honor

Norfolk – Few couples can rightly claim that they are the parents of 1,000 children. For John and Sherry Atwood, it is a most fitting distinction. Other than their faith and their profound love for each other, they have found nothing more rewarding in their lives than helping children at the YMCA.

The Atwoods were selected for the highest award given by the YMCA of South Hampton Roads, the Order of the Red Triangle, during the organization's Annual Meeting at the Norfolk Waterside Marriott on January 22. This award is given to volunteers who, over a period of years, have given unselfishly of their abilities and resources to advance the work of the YMCA.

John and Sherry are a couple that shows that giving doesn't just involve writing a check. While they have been financially generous to the YMCA for years, they are so much more. It is the giving of their time and talent, the inspiration of others, and the everyday things they do for children that have been the hallmark of their service to the YMCA," said YMCA of South Hampton Roads President and CEO Chuck Harris, who presented the Atwoods with the award at the event.

The Atwood's were brought up in small town Indiana where they learned that the more you give, the more you have. From their distinguished service on YMCA boards, to taking up hammers at Camp Silver Beach, to quietly buying eyeglasses for a poor child at the Indian River YMCA, they selflessly and purposefully put their core values into action.

Past recipients of the award include Dee Carpenter, David Shufflebarger, Susan Bradshaw, Charles Reynolds, Whitney Saunders, George Birdsong, Jimmy Strickland, Ray Johns, Frank Blocker, Tom Hostutler, Joe Kennedy, Bruce Bradley, Sandra Birdsong, Bob Boyd, Marlene Randall, David Bernd, Walter Potter, Greg Honeycutt and Jim Dille.

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 962-5555 or visit www.ymcashr.org.

The YMCA of South Hampton Roads is a nonprofit, community-based health and human services organization that serves over 200,000 children and families each year. More than 17% 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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