

River Region Volunteer of the Year 2012 Nomination Packet

Presented by:
The Volunteer & Information Center, Inc.
and
The Junior League of Montgomery



This packet includes:

Nomination Form
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Download the *Nomination Form* at clickvic.org

Nominations must be received no later than 5pm, March 1, 2012

2012 River Region Volunteer of the Year Celebration – April 17, 2012 at 3:30pm
Trinity Hall, Trinity Presbyterian Church, 1728 South Hull Street, Montgomery, AL 36104
For more information contact The Volunteer & Information Center – 334.264.3335

River Region Volunteer Awards Celebrating the Spirit of Volunteerism

Over the past 38 years, the Volunteer of the Year Awards Celebration has become the River Region's largest annual event recognizing individuals and groups who have selflessly given their time and talent to improve their community and its residents' overall quality of life. The awards celebration is hosted by the Volunteer & Information Center and the Junior League of Montgomery. Nominations are accepted at any time up till 6weeks prior to the celebration. The celebration is always during National Volunteer week in April.

The River Region Volunteer Awards Celebration provides an excellent opportunity for you to recognize and show appreciation to community volunteers at no cost to you and without having to do the planning. We hope you will consider recognizing outstanding volunteers in a memorable and inspiring way at an event given in *their* honor.

General Information

The Volunteer & Information Center (VIC)

The Volunteer and Information Center (VIC) mobilizes volunteers and connects people, information and services to meet local needs and build a strong, caring community. VIC was founded in 1974 by the Junior League of Montgomery and the United Way Community Council and is an agency of the River Region United Way. VIC is a full affiliate member of the Points of Light Foundation & Hands on Network and the Alliance of Information & Referral Services.

The Junior League of Montgomery

Founded in 1926, the Junior League of Montgomery is one of over 290 leagues across 4 countries representing almost 175,000 women. The Montgomery league is composed of nearly 800 members who donate approximately 20,000 hours of volunteer services annually. The JLM reaches out to all women regardless of race, religion, color or national origin.

The Awards

Awards are given to outstanding individual volunteers and volunteer groups whose efforts have brought about a positive impact on the River Region. **Thanks to the generous support of our sponsors, a cash contribution will be made on behalf of each award recipient to the non-profit of their choice.**

Award Categories include:

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

SENIOR (65+), ADULT (19 – 64), ADULT GROUP (ages 19 and over)

YOUTH (18 & under), and YOUTH GROUP (18 & under)

Eligibility and Selection Process

Eligibility

Deserving volunteers may be nominated by anyone in the community or by a staff person within a school, business, faith-based organization, government entity, or 501© (3) designated nonprofit agency. Nominees must currently be active volunteers (or active within the past 12 months). Volunteers at for-profit hospitals or hospices are eligible for nomination. Previously nominated individuals/groups who have not been an award recipient are also eligible. Past award recipients are eligible for the Lifetime Achievement Award. National Service program participants (AmeriCorps VISTA, Learn and Serve, RSVP, Foster Grandparents, Senior Companions, etc.) are also eligible based on their volunteer involvement in their service assignment. Individuals involved in “court mandated community service” or those serving as “loaned executives” are not eligible. Persons who receive compensation for service rendered (excludes AmeriCorps living allowance) are also not eligible for participation.

Nomination Process

Nominations may be submitted for each category; however, **only two nominees per category will be accepted from an agency or individual.** An exception is made for umbrella agencies with multiple site locations that operate independently. Each independent site may submit two nominations in each category. This exception does not apply to multiple programs of departments within one agency. **Nominations must be accompanied by a Nomination Form and narrative that is no more than 300 words. The narrative is very important as it introduces the nominee and their commitment to service to the judges.** Nominations not accompanied by the narrative cannot be accepted. Pictures, newspaper articles and up to 3 letters of support are encouraged but cannot be returned to the nominator.

- All nominees will be notified by VIC of their nomination; however, it is the responsibility of the nominator to also inform all persons they have nominated.
- **Nominating individuals/agencies/faith-based organizations will receive an email confirmation within three business days of submitting their nominee. If you do not receive a confirmation, please call Leslie Martorana at 334.264.3335.**

Screening and Selection Process

The Volunteer & Information Center utilizes outside judges who are community volunteers, business and civic leaders. Names of judges are listed on the agency webpage and in the event program. Judges individually select 3 finalists in each award category. The judges then meet formally to review the finalists and select the award recipients for each category. All nominees received certificates of appreciation and are formally recognized at the event.

Finalist Notification

Award winners and their nominators are notified by phone in early April.

Award Categories

Thanks to the generous support of our sponsors, a cash contribution will be made on behalf of each award recipient to the non-profit of their choice.

Youth Volunteer (18 & under)

Individuals eligible for this award are youth age 18 and younger. The award recognizes youth who incorporate volunteerism into their lives and serve as an inspiration to others.

Youth Group (18 & under)

Volunteer groups eligible for this award are youth age 18 and younger who are representatives of schools, faith based organizations or service clubs that volunteer for a specific cause or issue. Consideration is given to the group nominee's team approach to problem-solving and improving the community through decisive action as a group.

Adult Volunteer (Ages 19 – 64)

Individuals eligible for this award may be involved in a variety of community activities or may have a concentration of service with a particular agency. The collective effect of their work has an impact on agencies themselves and the community at large. Consideration is given to the nominee's longevity, focus or variety of work, and overall impact.

Adult Group

Groups eligible for this award represent colleges, civic organizations, faith-based groups or corporations that volunteer together for a specific cause or issue. Consideration is given to each group's team approach to problem-solving and improving the community through decisive action as a group.

Senior Volunteer (Age 65+)

Individuals eligible for this award will have participated in hands-on, direct service with one or more agency's constituents. Their service is considered extraordinary. Consideration is given to the nominee's longevity, focus, and impact to the agency, its constituents and/or the community.

Lifetime Achievement Award

The Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes exceptional service to others. It recognizes the generous spirit and critical role of volunteers by periodically selecting one volunteer for his or her lifetime volunteer achievements. The Award recognizes an individual's outstanding, life-long achievement in the area of improving life in the River Region through volunteer action.

Purpose of Award

We believe that volunteers should be compensated with gratitude, respect, and with other non-monetary rewards. The Lifetime Achievement Award is to recognize individuals who put service to others above self and who have exhibited:

- Exceptional leadership
- Exceptional commitment
- Exceptional initiative
- Significant sustained impact to the mission of the organization or to the quality of life in the community
- Have made significant contributions as a recognized leader in the community or organization
- Demonstrate personal commitment to the advancement and promotion of the community or agency(ies)
- Actively participates at a local, (agency or community), state, national, and/or international level
- Actively mentors, encourages and supports the advancement of others as volunteers

All Nominees will be recognized at the event and presented with Certificates of Appreciation in recognition of their commitment and service.

2011 AWARD RECIPIENTS

- **2011 Youth Volunteer Recipient: Mori Wallace** has been one of Hospice of Montgomery's most dedicated volunteers. Along with performing clerical duties, Mori delivers flowers, cookies and other gifts to Hospice patients and has assisted with their annual yard sale and fundraiser, Monte Carlo. Ms. Wallace also tutors children at Common Ground Ministries and helps out wherever needed at Elmcroft Assisted Living.
- **2011 Youth Group Recipient: Faith Zone Youth Ministry of Faith Full Gospel Baptist Church** have planned and implemented several projects that include: establishing a weekly youth community Bible Study, holding food drives to support the Montgomery Area Food Bank, serving meals at the Salvation Army and sponsoring clothing drives for underprivileged families.
- **2011 Adult Volunteer Recipient: Robert "Bob" Vardaman** has devoted countless hours to multiple agencies in the River Region. A few of his notable contributions include: designing ASF's 25th Anniversary which netted a half-million dollars for programs, playing a pivotal role in the founding of the Cloverdale Playhouse, creating the "Dining with Friends" fundraiser for Montgomery Aids Outreach, working tirelessly with the American Cancer Society to plan their annual fundraiser Vintage Affair and the list goes on.
- **2011 Adult Group Recipient: River Region Honor Flight** were honored for their monumental effort to thank Prattville World War II veterans by sending them to Washington, D.C. to see the memorial built in their honor. The men involved raised funds, compiled reams of paperwork, chartered airplanes and arranged for bus service, food and water in D.C. The fifth and final flight took off in September, 2010 shuttling the last of 425 vets and their guardians to Washington.
- **2011 Senior Volunteer Recipient: Pat Harden** has been active in her church, its women's organization, the American Business Women's Association Chapter and The Red Hat Society. Ms. Harden has also been involved with the Friends of the Forts, the Elmore County Historical Society, the Rumbling Waters Arts Club, the Elmore County Food Pantry and the Retired Senior Volunteer program.
- **2011 Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient: Bette Sue Strasburger** has demonstrated a personal commitment to serving others since childhood. She has served as a tutor for Partners in Education, served Christmas meals for the Salvation Army, cooked meals for Meals on Wheels and served in several chairperson capacities at Temple Beth Or. In 2010 and 2011, Ms. Strasburger initiated a project to provide all Alabama troops in combat zones with Alabama and Auburn BCS game t-shirts. Bette Sue has encouraged the younger members of her family to help others and meets weekly with her two granddaughters to collect, sort and deliver magazines to nursing homes, the VA Hospital and assisted living homes.