



# NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **VOLUNTEER FLORIDA HONORS FIVE WITH PRESIDENT'S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARDS**

*Prestigious National Honor for Volunteer Service to be presented as a part of Volunteer Florida's quarterly Commission meeting. ...*

**STUART** – The Governor's Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service (Volunteer Florida) today announced it will award **five** volunteers with the PRESIDENT'S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD, the highest national honor offered in recognition of volunteer service. To qualify for Gold, Silver or Bronze PRESIDENT'S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARDS, volunteers must have logged a specified number of volunteer hours over the course of a 12-month period. To qualify for the lifetime CALL TO SERVICE AWARD, volunteers must have logged **4,000** hours over the course of their lifetimes.

AWARDS Ceremonies will be held for **Martin County** Volunteers **Monday, Jan. 28 at 3 p.m.** at Marriott - Hutchinson Island, 555 NE Ocean Blvd. in Stuart. AWARDS ceremonies for **St. Lucie County** Volunteers will be held **Tuesday, Jan. 29 at 9 a.m.** at Savanna Ridge Elementary, 6801 Leonard Rd. in Port St. Lucie.

**The outstanding volunteers who will receive this award are:**

- **Lifetime Call to Service, Bill and Nancy Deacon.** The Deacons are very active volunteers in **Martin County**. They have volunteered with the county school system, YMCA, Boy Scouts, the Public Library, Blowing Rocks Preserve, American Cancer Society, and White Doves Holiday Project.
- **Lifetime Call to Service, Mim Huffam.** Huffam is being recognized for her volunteer work with the **Martin County** Sheriff's Office Special Investigations Division; for mentoring young men at The Juvenile Offender Training Center; and for providing support services to Martin Volunteers, Martin County's local Volunteer Center.
- **Lifetime Call to Service, Allan Klotsche.** Klotsche is being honored for his work with Big Brothers and Big Sisters of **St. Lucie County**, devoting literally thousands of hours to mentoring, board leadership and fund development with Big Brothers Big Sisters. In the past

(more)



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five years, Big Brothers Big Sisters has more than doubled its number of matches while adding new satellite offices in Indian River and Okeechobee Counties as a result of Allan's efforts.

- **Bronze President's Volunteer Service Award, Diana Livingston.** Livingston has provided excellence in board leadership for Big Brothers and Big Sisters of **St. Lucie County**. She has helped Big Brothers Big Sisters give the gift of mentoring to hundreds of children this past year through her encouragement, motivation of others, financial support and volunteer recruitment efforts.

"These recipients of the PRESIDENT'S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD are role models for all Americans," said Volunteer Florida CEO Wendy Spencer. "Each volunteer hour contributed makes a difference in improving the quality of life for others. Through their extraordinary commitment, these volunteers have brought us closer together as families, as communities and as a Nation."

Established in 2003, the PRESIDENT'S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD is available on an annual basis to individuals, groups and families who have met or exceeded requirements for volunteer service and have demonstrated exemplary citizenship through volunteering. As a Leadership Organization participating in the AWARDS program, **Volunteer Florida** confers the AWARDS to recognize the outstanding achievements of volunteers throughout Florida.

"In his 2002 State of the Union Address, President George W. Bush created the USA Freedom Corps, and called upon every American to make a lifelong commitment to volunteer service. The PRESIDENT'S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD recognizes individuals and families who have answered that call," said Spencer.

The PRESIDENT'S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD is an award for volunteer service that every American – from every age and every walk of life – can aspire to achieve. To be eligible to receive the AWARD, individuals, families and groups submit a record of their annual volunteer service hours to participating organizations, such as **Volunteer Florida**, that will verify the service and deliver the AWARD. AWARD eligibility for individuals and groups is based upon hour requirements varying by age.

The AWARD is issued by the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation, a group created to recognize the valuable contributions volunteers are making to our nation. Volunteer Florida CEO Wendy Spencer, who is an appointee to the Council, will present the awards on behalf of the Council. Chaired by Case Foundation President **Jean Case**, the Council is comprised of leaders in government, media, entertainment, business, education, nonprofits, and the volunteer sector.

For more information on volunteering in Florida, please visit [www.volunteerflorida.org](http://www.volunteerflorida.org).

For more information about how to qualify for the PRESIDENT'S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD, please visit [www.PresidentialServiceAwards.gov](http://www.PresidentialServiceAwards.gov) or call 1-866-545-5307.

The Governor's Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service (Volunteer Florida) was established in 1994 by the Florida Legislature to administer grants under the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993. The Commission grants funds to Florida AmeriCorps and National Service programs; encourages volunteerism for everyone from youth to seniors to people with disabilities; supports the Governor's initiatives through creating innovative volunteer programs; promotes volunteerism for disaster preparedness and response; and helps to strengthen and expand Volunteer Centers in Florida.

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