



January 7, 2009

Dear Friends:

It is time, once again, to recognize and thank the organizations and good people who volunteer so much of their time and effort to make our community such a special place to live. The Tallahassee Democrat is asking you to nominate these volunteers for our 2009 Volunteers of the Year program, our 31st year of holding this wonderful community event.

Individual nominees will also be eligible for the prestigious Jefferson Awards for Public Service. This award will go to one of the winners in the individual categories and will be the last award presented at the luncheon.

The Jefferson Awards for Public Service was begun in 1973 by Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, U.S. Senator Robert Taft, Jr., and Sam Beard (Staff Associate to Sen. Robert F. Kennedy). The award recognizes outstanding volunteer and public service by individuals around the country and culminates in a two-day, all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., in June where individuals are recognized at an evening banquet. You can learn more about the Jefferson Awards for Public Service by going to [www.jeffersonawards.org](http://www.jeffersonawards.org). So, as you go through the nomination process, please keep in mind this highly acclaimed and prestigious award because one of our very best from the Tallahassee area will represent all of us.

For individual nominations, we have seven categories: arts, civic services, education, professional manager/coordinator of volunteers, religion, social services and youth. For group nominations, we have two categories: businesses/government agencies and nonprofit organizations/clubs. The nomination form gives more details about each category.

The Tallahassee Democrat donates \$500 to a local charitable cause or organization in the names of each of the top finalists in eight of our nine categories. Recipients of these donations will be announced at our annual luncheon. The Volunteers of the Year luncheon will be held at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, April 23, at the University Center Club.

The deadline for nominations is 5 p.m. on Monday, March 2. Enclosed is the nomination form for you to use to nominate up to three candidates for 2009 Volunteers of the Year honors. If more than three are submitted, all will be returned. The resubmission of the three (3) nominations must be received by the nomination deadline.

Forms are available online at [www.tallahassee.com](http://www.tallahassee.com) and in the main lobby of the Tallahassee Democrat. Please take the time to read the nomination rules very carefully. For more information call Jeanie J. Booth, Community Relations, at 850-599-2356.

Thank you for helping to make Volunteers of the Year a success in 2008. We hope to see you at the luncheon.

Sincerely,

Patrick Dorsey  
President and Publisher  
Tallahassee Democrat