



Volunteer Voice

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

www.pinellascounty.org/volserv

Current Opportunities

- Animal Service Volunteer
- Welcome Center Assistant
- Brooker Creek Volunteer
- Weedon Island Weekend Warriors
- Heritage Village Gift Shop
- Auxiliary Rangers:
- VIP - Volunteer In Parks
- Garden Maintenance Assistant
- 4-H Volunteers
- Special Events Assistant
- Evening Volunteers at Airport
- 2-1-1 Tampa Bay Cares

Have you considered?

- ...Supporting many of the special events throughout the year—Seasonal Sensations at the Florida Botanical Gardens, Earth Fest at Extension, Haunted Village at Heritage Village to name a few, This is a great way to experience different areas in the county.

Partners in Public Service Winners



4-H Volunteer, Stephanie Parrish, right, receives her award.

Any volunteer will say that they don't donate their time to be awarded. Volunteers love their work, and Pinellas County loves them because they help with everything from pushing paper to shoveling mulch.

Partners in Public Service (PIPS) awards were presented to five teams who regularly volunteer at Pinellas County Extension, Weedon Island Preserve and Heritage Village as well as the following youth and individuals.

Communications Dept.

Linda Campi was a 2007 PIPS Award recipient in the Individual category. This adaptable volunteer began at Extension and served in the Director's office on a variety of projects. She became a Communication Department Volunteer last year. She is an active contributor – participating in the day-to-day operations and special events as needed where her efficiency and timely suggestions were valued. She has been volunteering for Pinellas County for five years.

Marc Romano was a 2007 PIPS

Award recipient in the Individual category. This dependable volunteer takes time off from his paying job to serve as the affable co-anchor of the *Inside Pinellas* TV show which airs weekly on Pinellas 18. He also willingly volunteers for other assignments like the Affordable Housing video series. He has been volunteering at Communications for two years.

Extension Dept.

Brandy Spillman was a 2007 PIPS Award recipient in the Individual category. Brandy is an educable mentally handicapped individual and does not drive. Yet she still manages to complete various clerical assignments for the many Extension groups she is always willing to help. Her easy smile and giving spirit have been an asset to the department. She has been volunteering at Extension for six years.

Marcel Pincince & Pat Mann were 2007 PIPS Award recipients in the Group category. Together these two amazing workers have taken on several important tasks at Extension/Florida Botanical Gardens. They tend to every aspect of the seasonal Annual Trial Flower Beds at the gardens, involving bi-weekly maintenance of the flowering plants sent in from wholesale growers in 27 raised beds. These seeds represent the previous year's Best of Show annuals grown and selected worldwide. They have been volunteering at Extension for five years.

The **Thursday Green Team** was a 2007 PIPS Award recipient in the Group category. Every Thursday

morning, at the crack of dawn, this rotating crew of 30-40 Master Gardeners, headed by staff person Bob Albanese, arrive to care for the landscape plants at Extension/Florida Botanical Gardens according to University of Florida guidelines. They do everything from planting to mulching to watering, and always, weeding. They have been volunteering at Extension for 16 years.

The Florida Friendly Landscape Design Duo, consisting of **Mindy Bickey** and **Michael Stewart**, was a 2007 PIPS Award recipient in the Group category. This dynamic duo researched and designed a large Native Plant Demonstration area across from the County Extension building showcasing Florida-friendly landscape practices. They have been volunteering at Extension for two years.

Stephanie Parrish was a 2007 PIPS Award recipient in the Youth category. As an active member for many years and current president of the 4-H Community Service Grants Board, this busy volunteer has helped to award more than \$60 thousand in grant funds to deserving youth in Pinellas County as they

*Did you know?
Last year Pinellas County
Volunteers donated 98,208
hours of service which had
the equivalent value of
\$1,843,380!*

Volunteers.....extending our reach.

Partners in Public Service Winners (cont.)

execute youth-initiated and youth-led service projects. She has been volunteering at Extension for three and a half years.

Environmental Management Dept.

Emma Mason was a 2007 PIPS Award recipient in the Individual category. This enthusiastic volunteer makes the programs of the Weedon Island Preserve Cultural and Natural History Center come alive for the public. She leads groups of all ages on interpretative hikes and assists in many ways inside the center itself. She has been volunteering at Environmental Management for three years.

Ken Rowe was a 2007 PIPS Award recipient in the Individual category. Ken has been an anchor to the volunteer-based programs at the Pinellas County Environmental Lands Division since the onset of the program. Over the years, he has volunteered for nearly every activity and has served in leadership roles for most. He has been volunteering at Environmental Management for 12 years. *Ken was also nominated for the United Way Volunteer of the Year Award and was honored at a special luncheon.*

Ken Rowe, left, volunteers as a bird watcher at Brooker Creek Preserve.



The **Weedon Island Bird Survey Team**, consisting of **Frank O'Sullivan** and **John and Lindsay Hood**, was a 2007 PIPS Award recipient in the Group category. These dedicated volunteers met with the Education Center staff and Land Manager and set up the weekly birding program, recording all the species they saw each week. This led to a popular bird hike at the end of each month which has become known as the Weedon Island Bird Quest. They have been volunteering at Environmental Management for two years.

Lauren Wittine was a 2007 PIPS Award recipient in the Youth category. This home-schooled volunteer comes to Weedon Island Preserve Cultural and Natural History Center early to help with every aspect, from set up to clean up, of their Wee Time at Weedon program for children. She has been volunteering at Environmental Management for two years.

Heritage Village

Thelma Powell was a 2007 PIPS Award recipient in the Individual category. She currently works at either the Log Cabin or the H.C. Smith Store. Thelma has extensive information about the early years in Pinellas County and eagerly shares this history with her guests – making history come alive at Heritage Village. She has been volunteering at Heritage Village for 28 years.

Thelma was also nominated for the

United Way Volunteer of the Year Award and was honored at a special luncheon.

Thelma Powell volunteers at the log cabin at Heritage Village.



Sandra Crist-Apple was a 2007 PIPS Award recipient in the Retiring Volunteer category. This retiring volunteer has been instrumental in transcribing many of the almost 200 oral history tapes that are currently in the museum's collection. Without her service, valuable pieces of history would still be locked away. She has been volunteering at Heritage Village for over seven years.

The **Passport and Gadget Exhibit Group**, consisting of **Carl Sarine, Jerry Duck, John Roberts, Howard Johnson, Joyce Pickering, Jay Dobkin, Mary Askew, Bob Turner and Fritz Wilder**, was a 2007 PIPS Award recipient in the Group category. This versatile group blended their multiple talents to form an exhibit team who helped in the production and installation of two new exhibits for the Ralph Reed and Roy Helms galleries at Heritage Village. They have been volunteering at Heritage Village for between two and twenty years.

Brandon Dropic was a 2007 PIPS

Award recipient in the Youth category. This outstanding Jr. Docent studies and interprets complicated and detailed histories of Pinellas County and Florida to provide fun, active tours in several historical structures at the museum. He has been volunteering at Heritage Village for one year.

Parks Dept.

Sylvia Ellis was a 2007 PIPS Award recipient in the Individual category. This energetic volunteer has contributed 676 hours leading various Campground Walks, Beach Walks, and Arrowhead and Soldiers' Hole tours - teaching the wonders of nature and the beach. She also organized a children's craft program for campers at the park. She has been volunteering at Fort De Soto for 13 years.

Nova Bickell was a 2007 PIPS Award recipient in the Individual category. This dedicated volunteer patrols the Fred Marquis Pinellas Trail on bicycle and provides assistance to patrons, distributes brochures, reports unusual activity to the Trail office, encourages safety to patrons and seeks voluntary compliance of County Park Rules, Regulations and Requirements. He has been volunteering on the Pinellas Trail for one year.

In addition, two Heritage Village volunteers, **Betty Heath** and **Beth Kaiser**, have each completed more than 30 years of service for the county.

Manager's Message from Joe LeGath

In this issue we are pleased to honor our 2007 Partners in Public Service volunteer award winners. They are representative of the fine service that all of you bring to your assignments as county volunteers. It was extremely difficult making these selections as all of you have given us award-winning performances and I personally want to thank you for the outstanding efforts in support of county activities whether they were a single event or long term assignment.

Your assistance directly helps the county to provide more services than would be possible otherwise. As mentioned on the front page, last year county volunteers **contributed more than 98,208 hours of direct labor which is calculated to have an equivalent value of \$1,843,380** or to put it in a very concrete perspective volunteers provided the county **the equivalent of 47 additional full time employees.**

Contact us at:
www.volunteers.org

As Commissioner Stewart commented during a recent budget hearing, you are our "priceless volunteers." So whether you have just started volunteering with us, or are one of our veterans of more than 35 years of service, I extend a big thank you for the help!

Have a great summer!

Tanks,
Joe LeGath
Volunteer Services Manager



"No man can become rich without himself enriching others." —

Andrew Carnegie