

2015 DEKALB FOOTBALL PREVIEW

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SECTION A: VOL. 25 NO. 7

AUGUST 13 - 19, 2015

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Local company awards community volunteers

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A lifetime of volunteerism led a DeKalb business owner to support the efforts of other volunteers and nonprofit organizations.

On Aug. 1, Forrest Tuff's Clarkston-based multimedia production company, One Vision Productions, sponsored its inaugural President's Volunteer Service Award, a program that recognizes volunteers who have achieved the required number of hours of service over a 12-month period or cumulative hours over the course of a lifetime.

"We normally do a lot of things—just a lot of community service helping out," Tuff said.

"We found this program, and it created a way to give people an incentive to do something," Tuff said about President Barack Obama's Volunteer Service Award. "Sometimes it's easier to get people to do stuff with that kind of incentive. It's a great program so we became a part of it, and we use that when we talk about doing community service. It gets them motivated."

Tuff's company is a certifying organization for the award, overseeing and coordinating local volunteers in the program.

"People sign up for the president's volunteer program [and] they do anywhere from 60 to 500 hours within a fiscal year," Tuff said.

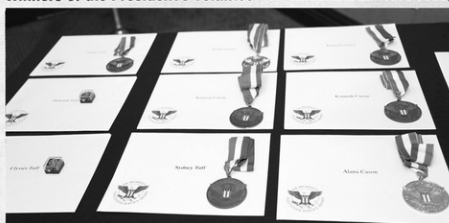
The winners received a medal from the president, a letter from the National Society of Community Service and a certificate from the White House, Tuff said.

As a part of One Vision Productions' Pay It Forward initiative, the company finds "nonprofits that...are really doing things in the community and really helping people and sometimes they just need finances," Tuff said. "Every year we give [to] an organization...we know is really working in the community."

"This year a \$500 gift was awarded to I Am B.E.A.U.T.I.F.U.L., a nonprofit organization that engages girls in interactive learning experiences designed to build self-esteem and strong leadership skills."



Winners of the President's Volunteer Service Awards were recognized Aug. 1. Photos provided



Left, The awards honor those who have completed the required number of volunteer hours in a year. Right, Apostle Ulysses Tuff and Pastor Deborah Tuff received lifetime achievement awards.



Members of the nonprofit I Am B.E.A.U.T.I.F.U.L. received the Pay It Forward Award.