

FORREST TUFF

Champion of the Week

For Forrest Tuff, volunteering comes naturally. His father, Ulysses Tuff, is pastor of The Way, The Truth and The Life Christian Center in Decatur.



"I started out doing missions work with the church," Tuff said.

Tuff is a community ambassador for youth-Spark Inc., a "movement of pioneers, youth and adults alike, committed to ending child sex trafficking through the power of prevention," according to the group's website.

He is also member of the American Heart Association and produces films for his father's church.

In 2004, he started his own business, One Vision Productions, a multimedia

production company based in Clarkston.

"That aspect of giving back seemed to always find its way into my business," Tuff said. "There were companies that needed stuff or people that needed things, and I would use my talents and resources to get things together.

"It naturally stayed with

me," he said.

Tuff said his volunteerism spirit evolved last year when he learned of President Barack Obama's Volunteer Service Award, a program that recognizes volunteers who have achieved the required number of hours of service over a 12-month time period or cumulative hours over the course of a lifetime.

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

"Now we're using it as an incentive for other people to get involved in community service," Tuff said. In the program, participants who perform 60 to 500 hours of community

service receive a personalized certificate, an official pin, medallion or coin and a congratulatory letter from the president of the United States.

"Sometimes it's easier to get people to do stuff with that kind of incentive," Tuff said. 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 said volunteerism "creates a certain type of environment of selflessness.

"Sometimes when you are in a state of constantly taking, taking, taking, you don't realize the benefits of helping others," he said. "When you do that, other

doors open up for you.

"It makes you feel good," Tuff said. "When I give I actually feel good about doing it, so that's the benefit for me. I just try to encourage other people to do it. I think it creates a good energy, definitely strengthens the economy and it just empowers people.

"Giving back should be a priority for all," Tuff said. "It's an awesome way to create good karma for yourself and for others. I think it's something you should partake in no matter what your field or profession is."

If you would like to nominate someone to be considered as a future Champion of the Week, please contact Andrew Cauthen at andrew@dekalbchamp.com or at (404) 373-7779, ext. 117.



The Official Legal Organ of DeKalb County, GA. Serving East Atlanta, Avondale Estates, Brookhaven, Chamblee, Clarkston, Decatur, Doraville, Dunwoody, Lithonia, Pine Lake, Tucker and Stone Mountain.

We're Social

 thechampionnewspaper.com

The Champion

1ST PLACE
 GENERAL EXCELLENCE
 AWARD WINNER
 GEORGIA PRESS ASSOCIATION
 BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST
 2007, 2009-2015

SECTION A: VOL. 25 NO. 7

AUGUST 13 - 19, 2015

50¢

Local company awards community volunteers

by Andrew Cauthen
andrew@dekalbchamp.com

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.

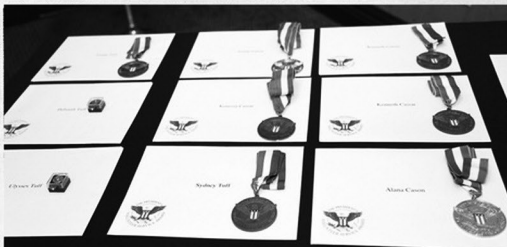
The winners received a medal from the president, a letter from the National Society of Community Service and a certificate from the White House, Tuff said.

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.