

Florida Recreation and Park Association
2016 Voluntary Service Award
Christian Isaly

Narrative I:

Describe the nominee's contribution to the parks, recreation and leisure services movement over the last three years.

Typically when you think of a volunteer, you most likely think of the number of hours an individual contributes for a cause or to assist an organization. We are blessed to have a volunteer that does donate his personal time, but his greater contribution is in his ability to acquire donations for our department. Over the past three years, Christian has had great success in collecting a huge volume of donations. You see, much of our community is low in-come with 86% of the school children on free and reduced lunches. Our department budget is not very large either. Christian writes letters for us to large corporations and collects huge amounts of donations that we utilize for prizes and give-a-ways during our events. He receives so many items for us that we are able to share the toys with other local agencies: the Children's Hospital, the Children's Home, other Parks and Recreation Departments and the Domestic Violence Shelters to name a few.

Our Parks and Recreation Department and our Community are so blessed to have Christian Isaly as a volunteer. He cares about his community and our Parks and Recreation Department. As if his wonderful letter writing ability were not enough, he has also volunteered his time in our summer camp program and for various special events.

Every child and every parent that attends one of our events experiences wonderful family time, creates memories and thanks to Christian, walks away with prizes that they could have only dream of before. Our department would not be able to purchase this quantity of prizes, so therefore these family events would not be possible without Christian.

Narrative II:

Provide any additional information to describe why you believe the individual being nominated is deserving of this recognition.

We, as a City, are working hard to revitalize our community. Our City invested \$3 Million Dollars to refurbish our main park in the downtown. Our Department hosts many community events in this park to rebuild and bring our community together. Without the strong support and volunteer efforts from Christian Isaly, it would be a real challenge to offer these community events for our families. Many of the prizes he receives are items such as footballs and soccer balls; items the children can use in the park when they return with their family to enjoy the park all year long.

Christian's time was well spent writing letters to obtain donations in order for us to provide Christmas for 4000 children through Toy for Tots that was held in our Recreation and Aquatic Center. Some of the donations are smaller in quantity such as the 200 tiaras for the Daddy Daughter Dance but still huge because every girl was made to feel like a princess for the evening. The smiles on the children's faces as they received activity books and board games in the Children's Hospital was priceless and the DVD's provided to the Domestic Violence Shelters provided a welcomed distraction from the hardships they are facing.

So you see, the volunteer efforts of Christian Isaly has a tremendous impact toward building strong family ties, creating community and on making wonderful family memories for the citizens of our City. Christian is so humble, he never wants credit and he does not think what he does is a big deal. It's a huge deal! We literally would not be able to host these events without him and it's through these events that we are helping to rebuild our community by providing fun activities that have lasting impacts on our citizens. It is our Parks and our Events that are drawing people back to our City to buy homes and to raise their families.

Please select Christian Isaly for the Florida Recreation and Park Association Individual Voluntary Service Award. Thank you.