

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 23, 2001

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: Caroline Rhodes, Volunteer Services Coordinator

SUBJECT: International Year of Volunteers - Volunteer Recognition - Dave Gosselin and Dan Smith

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2001 has been designated International Year of Volunteers by the United Nations General Assembly. To celebrate, the Office of Volunteer Services is highlighting outstanding volunteers and the County department they work with each month for the next year. This month we are recognizing Parks and Recreation volunteer, Dave Gosselin along with staff Dan Smith.

Over seventeen years ago, Dave Gosselin had a son that played baseball for the Williamsburg Youth League. What began as a volunteer coaching job evolved into serving on the Youth League Board for 17 years - eight of them as President.

Under Dave's leadership, some of the biggest and most positive changes have taken place in the baseball community. He helped to develop the County's Parks and Recreation co-sponsorship policy and the Youth League was the first group to work with the County in a partnership effort. Dave played a key role on the 1994 bond referendum by forming the Friends of Parks and Recreation. He also worked with the County to provide quality baseball facilities at Mid-County Park and the District Park Sports Complex and he was involved in developing an alliance with Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken Baseball to provide a higher quality baseball program for the citizens of James City County.

The number of youth in the program has doubled over the past ten years. Through this program, youth are exposed to positive role models that help shape their future. Dave has been instrumental in making sure all children who want to play baseball can and that no child is turned away. The benefits of the program include learned social and motor skills, sportsmanship, the importance of team unity, mutual respect, and the opportunity to just have fun. Through Dave's guidance, the Williamsburg Youth League has developed a program that not only enhances the abilities of those that want competitive baseball, but at the same time strives to provide baseball for all youth interested in playing the game.

Dave Gosselin has been a driving force in a top notch baseball program that continues to get better.

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Caroline Rhodes

CONCUR:

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Carol M. Luckam

CMR/adw  
volyear1001.mem