
2014 Service Program Award Winners

If your Council did a better Program---why didn't you file the paperwork.

Congratulations to this year's winners!!

SERVICE PROGRAM AWARDS – 2014

CHURCH

Awarded to the St Martha's Council # 14027 in Plainville - Grand Knight – Mark Alegria

PROJECT MOSES – To place a monument of the 10 Commandments in public view, and to honor our former priest the late Father John Walsh, the driving force of the forming of our council.

According to their application this project was the idea of our late pastor, Father John Walsh. He was inspired by the national not-profit organization, Project Moses, which was seen at the State Convention. Five years ago when father Walsh passed away and went with God on October 22, 2008, we decided to honor him by setting out to fulfill his vision. This project was a long labor of love for the person who was a driving force to form our council. He had been a lifelong Knight and a great supporter of the Knights. He was our Spiritual Leader and our Friend. He is missed every day. This project was also used to help an Eagle Scout Candidate receive his Eagle Scout Badge.

COMMUNITY

Awarded to the Easthampton Council # 1116 in Easthampton – Grand Knight – Frank W Furman III

BETHLEHEM HOUSE RENOVATION PROJECT – Bethlehem House is a non-profit organization located in Western Massachusetts which offers free pregnancy resources for men and women in crisis. Due to rising rent prices BH could no longer stay at their former location. A new location was found at the former Sacred Heart Rectory. A request came into our council to ask the Knights to provide manpower to repair and make the rectory habitable by having the Knights plaster and paint the new location.

Their application said we immediately began mobilizing to help out Bethlehem House by holding an urgent meeting with our members and finding ways to get addition help. We placed ads in the Parish Bulletin asking for anyone who could help in anyway, even just to push a paintbrush. We started the project in early October with knights many of whom were retired and continued for weeks and week-ends and concluded the end of November. Two full months of plastering, spackling, sanding and painting was done and the rugs were installed and then all the Knights turned into movers moving all the furnishings to the new DIGS

COUNCIL

Awarded to the South Attleboro Council # 5786 – Grand Knight – Dean Patterson

"STAR WARS" BLOOD DRIVE -- The purpose of this activity was to continue a long legacy associated with the Knights holding blood donations, but to do it in the most non-traditional way to ensure families would attend, bring new life into our hall and potentially use it as a mechanism to attract new future members.

According to their application, on June 22, the Council held its 3rd Annual Star Wars themed blood drive. Star Wars is a bit timeless in nature and consequently we have generation of fathers, sons and even grandson's attending our drives merely out of appreciation of the star wars related hobby.

Local Star Wars author Ryder Windham attends and gives a brief chat about the importance of donating blood as well as chats about his books, upcoming projects and anything and everything related to Star Wars. Children just love this part of the program and ask a lot of questions. Red Cross mentioned this year that it was one of the busiest drives they have seen in a long time.

I noted in their application that they had a membership table set up and did receive Form 100's were generated. Here is my question for you----did those apps get you any new members????

CULTURE OF LIFE

Awarded to the Holy Family Council # 15197 in South Deerfield – Grand Knight – Deacon Ted Tudryn

MONUMENT OF THE UNBORN – As you can see from the number, 15197, this is a new council. As the first bequest from our Chaplain, our first council project was to collect funds for a Monument for the Unborn. We began to raise funds by putting on church dinners, selling roses after Mass during October and soliciting outright donation from parishioners. It took us only 18 months to raise \$ 3,800.00. Knights dug and poured the foundation and then a beautiful tear drop shaped African Black Marble monument with Our Lady of Guadalupe etched in the Stone was put in place. On Mother's Day last year, after Mass, with the Fourth Degree Honor Guard leading the procession, our Chaplain Father Phillippe blessed the monument in front of Holy Family church. Father mentioned how he has wanted a monument for some time.

FAMILY

Awarded to the Lt. John J. Galvin Council # 133 in Greenfield – Grand Knight – Jason Semaske

SPAGHETTI BENEFIT DINNER - To raise money for the DeLabruere family, a knight family, in need of financial assistance. This dinner was an ordinary spaghetti dinner with an extraordinary outlook. As a result of a horrific automobile accident, John lost his sight. Many surgeries later and no positive results, John is totally blind. John, along with his wife Deborah and their three children were awarded a check that totaling \$ 3,800.00 to help defray the mounting bills. Lt. John J. Galvin Council in Greenfield hosted the dinner at Holy Trinity Church and the dinner was prepared by professional chef Lonny Ricketts, a member of neighboring Turner Falls Council # 737. Over 180 local parishioners turned out in support of this family. As is quoted in the local newspaper article John said "Now that I am blind, I can see more than I ever did before –spiritually, mentally and physically."

YOUTH

Awarded to Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Council # 11080 in West Brookfield – Grand Knight – Wallace Connor, Jr.

VALLEY VIEW SCHOOL - To Provide support, aid and a sense of community to the victims of the Valley View School fire of October 25, 2013.

During the early evening darkness of October 25, 2013, Valley View School in North Brookfield, MA suffered a devastating fire where the dining room, Kitchen, recreation rooms and dormitory were destroyed. This left many boys between the ages of 11 and 17 without anything, no clothes, no possessions. Our grand knight immediately responded by arranging for donations of clothing and toiletries from our two churches and contacting members of our council who rallied to prepare a lunch for the boys and staff on Sunday afternoon. Our council members transported grills, coolers, tables, chairs and food to the school and cooked while the wives and members of our parish ladies group prepared salads, hot dishes and desserts. Many knights came together for the sole purpose of serving their neighbor in the time of great need.

On Monday, we came together to prepare a supper meal for the boys and the school staff. Clothing and other items collected from our two churches was also transported to the school for the boys. In early November a Thanksgiving meal with all the trimmings was prepared for the boys and staff of the school along with the first responders from the different towns that responded and assisted in the mutual aid of fighting the fire, EMS personnel that were on scene, members of the North Brookfield Emergency Management Group and supporters from different walks of life. About 110 folks gathered in thanksgiving that there were no serious injuries sustained by firefighters and other first responders or the students and the staff. Stories were exchanged by the various groups present of their actions and reactions of the fire at Valley View School and the days since. Most touching was when the young students stood up and addressed the group present with their sincere gratefulness for all that was done for them. These students were called boys earlier in the evening, but left as young men that have reacted by sticking together and supporting each other through it all. A very moving and wonderful gathering.