

## 2010 Keep Jacksonville Beautiful Awards

### **Leadership Achievement Award**

**This special award provides recognition for outstanding, long-term contributions to the community in support of beautification activities which enhance community pride and improve the quality of life here in Jacksonville. It is instituted as a special award rather than as a standing annual category.**

Francis Padgett

At an age when most folks are content to sit and watch TV, Francis Padgett has been an active senior working to make Jacksonville a better place to live. Ms. Padgett, 88, has been involved in the Adopt-A-Road program for 20 years. She recruited two organizations, the Arlington Senior Center Advisory Board and the Arlington Womans Club to clean roadways in Arlington. Members are octogenarians, and until her “retirement,” one member was in her mid-‘90s. Ms. Padgett has been active in a number of community activities and organizations, including SHADCO (Sheriff’s Advisory Council). She enjoys parasailing, swimming and dancing.

### **Individual**

Patrick Evan McMillan

A volunteer for Keep Jacksonville Beautiful, Clara White Mission and Angel Aid, Patrick conducts cleanups on his own and encourages others, through his actions, to do likewise. Patrick and his band, Aerial Tribe, performed on stage at Metro Park for volunteers of the St. Johns River Celebration cleanup. That effort was part of Patrick’s on-going campaign for litter prevention. Patrick is involved in citywide organized cleanups and cigarette butt litter scans collecting thousands of “butts” with other volunteers. Patrick’s influence for picking up litter originated with his former pastor in Atlanta, who would preach about “cleanliness being next to godliness.”

### **Business**

Businesses with 150+ employees

Sea Star Line

The Jacksonville-based Sea Star Line is recognized for implementing green office practices and community involvement as demonstrated through its financial support and community volunteer efforts. Its offices are Green Office Certified through QMS Global. Employee flextime and commuting, motion-sensor lighting and soap dispensers, live plants, video and other green designs have resulted in the company’s being awarded ISO 140001 certification for its Environmental Management System. Employees donated time at a variety of events, including river cleanups and construction of HabiJax Habitat for Humanity homes. Star Sea Line has also developed an internal recycling program to recycle office and industry materials.

Austin Outdoor

Businesses with 150 or fewer employees

Austin Outdoor, a Yellowstone landscape company, partnered with the City of Jacksonville's Clean It Up, Green It Up to identify Paxon Middle School as a site for Austin's Jacksonville district employees to beautify during Professional Landcare Network Day of Service during Earth Day 2009. The focus of the project was the school's high-traffic courtyard, where a variety of trees and plants were planted, including Washington Palms, Live Oaks, Mono Grass, Flax Lily, Ilex Shillings, Walter's Viburnum and annuals. The new landscape offers science teachers a laboratory for nature walks for their students.

## **Sustaining Excellence in Environmental Commitment**

### **Citi**

Citi has consistently demonstrated its commitment to Keep Jacksonville Beautiful and improving Duval County. For the past 14 years, Citi volunteers participated in the St. Johns River Celebration cleanup and have removed tons of debris along the river at Joe Carlucci Park and Sister's Creek. Last year, volunteers planted a tree at their site, and lent a hand with Shine in '09, removing litter and cleaning a retention pond in downtown Jacksonville. They also spruced the grounds at Mandarin Senior Center, Hanna Park and Mayport Elementary School by removing litter, planting shrubs and flowers and building concrete barriers around flowerbeds.

### **Elementary**

#### **R.V. Daniels Elementary School**

Students at R.V. Daniels are learning real life lessons about sustainability. Under the tutelage of teacher Susan Burns, second graders at R.V. Daniels are the primary caregivers of several sustainable gardens that serve as living laboratories. There, students make sun charts, tend soybeans, release butterflies, meet beekeepers, and even grow their own edible salad greens. Food grown in the gardens is used as part of an anti-obesity campaign that involves mentoring younger students and cooking seasonal foods and sharing nutrition information. Students routinely picking up trash around campus, and the school's Dads of Daniels club regularly organizes cleanups.

### **High School**

#### **Sandalwood High School**

Sandalwood High School is an active, eco-friendly school, boasting a number of clubs that improve the campus, the community and Jacksonville through a variety of beautification and litter abatement projects.

The school's Green State Club participates in Keep Jacksonville Beautiful's Adopt-A-Road program and hosts monthly cleanups at area parks. In 2009, members participated in more than 100 events, including the St. Johns River Celebration cleanup, International Coastal Cleanup and the Right Whale Festival.

Before sustainability was mandated by the school board, GreenState purchased 55-gallon recycling bins to collect bottles and cans, and partnered with Paper Retriever Recycling for paper recycling.

### **Ed White High School**

Students at Ed White High School have taken a multiple approach to litter abatement, beautification and recycling. While custodial staff daily keep hallways clean and litter free, NJROTC students clean the campus after each football game and other large events. And the team is working on beatifying the school's flag area and trimming and removing overgrown shrubbery. The Science and Environmental Club started a recycling project whose primary objectives are to establish a recycling program, increase awareness of recycling within the student body and extend the recycling program into the local community.

### **Organization**

#### **Springfield Community Garden**

A former vacant lot in Springfield was transformed into a community garden that feeds participating urban gardeners and the community's spirit of rejuvenation. Springfield resident Amanda Searle worked with property owner Ray Beeson in 2009 to form the not-for-profit Community Garden. Residents built and maintain the garden, which contains 20 raised bed plots and a communal section for pumpkins or watermelons. An eight-week gardening class is also scheduled in May for youngsters 7-12 years old, complete with their own diminutive gardens. Several other educational activities have been held, including seed starting, cleaning green workshop and organic gardening.

### **Fresh Ministries**

Fresh Ministries has forged partnerships that have an impressive impact on an Eastside Community. Its beautification and litter abatement efforts caused a dramatic drop in City code violations – from 800 to 300 -and reduction of property crime—by 32% in 2009, as compared to 2008. Last year, Fresh Ministries purchased plants for a community garden and for residents' home beautification. With the aid of the Eastside Community Association, which it helped form; the organization offers tools for residents to beautify their homes. The Association organizes neighborhood cleanups several times a year, and individuals clean up vacant lots in the community.

### **Jacksonville Sheriff's Office**

Sgt. Donald Smith and Officer Wayne Dees continue their efforts to spearhead the Homeless Outreach through Monitoring and Enforcement (H.O.M.E) program, which began in 2008.

The operation is a corroborative partnership with JSO, I.M. Sulzbacher Center, the Florida Department of Corrections and Florida Department of Transportation to clean up homeless camps on public lands.

In 2009, inmates collected 250,000 pounds of trash and saved taxpayers \$78,000.

Cleanups were conducted in several areas, including Leila Street, Normandy Boulevard, I 295 and Roosevelt Boulevard, Danielle Terrace, Goodman Road, Blanding Boulevard, Dunn Avenue, Argyle Forrest Boulevard and U.S. 301 and I-10.