



Press Release

Nominations Sought for Distinguished Service Awards (DSA), October 2019

Derived from the Ten Outstanding Young Americans program, "The DSA" typically honors 10 individuals annually. The Brainerd Jaycees and Brainerd Community Action have partnered, along with a variety of other non-profit organizations to identify the honorees. We are accepting nominations for the following Distinguished Service Awards:

- **Nonprofit of the Year**
- **Youth Volunteer of the Year**
- **Citizen of the Year**
- **Young Citizen of the Year**
- **Agribusiness Person of the Year**
- **Community Service Provider of the Year**

Outstanding Nonprofit of the Year criteria are as follows:

- Demonstration of a positive impact on the region/improve overall quality of life for the community
- Demonstration of Community/Nonprofit Partnership
- Active involvement by director, staff, board members, volunteers, constituents, and other stakeholders in delivering excellent service/product
- Effective fundraising and resource development
- Solid Financial management
- Unique use of financial resources to strengthen organization
- Effective use of Social Media and IT for communication of product/services

Typical characteristics of a successful non-profit include a pro-active Board of Directors, dedicated staff, and unwavering support from community partners. In order to recognize a stand out nonprofit with these characteristics, this impressive award is presented to an organization that displays amazing leadership, integrity, and management skills required for success.

Outstanding Youth Volunteer of the Year criteria are as follows:

- The award is to be given to a living person
- Candidates should be 18 years or younger.
- The nominee will have volunteered services that are above and beyond normal youth pursuits
- The services performed have contributed to the welfare of the community
- The services were performed for an extended period of time

Recognizing the youth of the community typically ages 13-18 who make a difference in the community through volunteerism and service work. Open to anyone in the Brainerd Lakes Area (BLA) who exemplify the ideal of service to humanity.

Outstanding Citizen of the Year criteria are as follows:

- The award is to be given to a living person
 - The nominee will have volunteered services that are above and beyond normal employment or business pursuits
 - The services performed have contributed to the welfare of the community
 - The services were performed for an extended period of time
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Outstanding Young Citizen of the Year criteria are as follows:

- The award is to be given to a living person, who is between the age of 18-40 years old.
- The nominee will have volunteered services that are above and beyond normal employment or business pursuits
- The services performed have contributed to the welfare of the community
- The services were performed for an extended period of time

Recognizing youth who make a difference in the community through volunteerism and service work. Open to anyone in the Brainerd Lakes Area (BLA) who exemplify the ideal of service to humanity.

Outstanding Agribusiness Person of the Year criteria as follows:

- The award is to be given to a living person who works closely with, or in, the farming community in the BLA.
- The nominee will have volunteered services that are above and beyond normal employment or business pursuits
- The services performed have contributed to the welfare of the community
- The services were performed for an extended period of time

Outstanding Community Service Provider of the Year criteria as follows:

- The award is to be given to a living person, who could include Police, Fire, EMTs etc.
- The nominee will have volunteered services that are above and beyond normal employment or business pursuits
- The services performed have contributed to the welfare of the community
- The services were performed for an extended period of time

Letters of nomination should include:

- The nominee's occupation
- Details of volunteer work and length of service
- Office held in organization(s)
- Impact of the nominee's contributions to the lakes area
- Letters of support from organizations that have benefited from their services.
- Letters should be no longer than 4 pages.

The Brainerd Community Action selection committee will have representation from the following areas:

Previous Citizens of the Year awardees, Brainerd Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce, Crow Wing County Community Services, Financial Institute, Clergy, Business owners, Brainerd Community Action Board members, Members of the Brainerd Jaycees, and other influential community leaders.

Letters of nomination for **Nonprofit of the Year, Youth Volunteer of the Year and Citizen of the Year** should be SUBMITTED preferably through e-mail to **Cassie Carey** at Cassie@BrainerdCommunityAction.org by August 30, 2019.

If you'd like, please send hard copy to:

Brainerd Community Action
c/o Distinguished Service Awards (DSA)
321 South 7th Street
Brainerd, MN 56401

Letters of nomination for **Young Citizen of the Year, Agribusiness of the Year and Community Service Provider of the Year** should be SUBMITTED preferably through e-mail to **Kaitlyn Rhoda** at jaycees.dsa@gmail.com by August 30, 2019.

If you'd like, please send hard copy to:

Brainerd Jaycees
c/o Distinguished Service Awards (DSA)
PO Box 384
Brainerd, MN 56401