

2021: Dubuque National Service Recognition Award Nomination Form

Category nominated for: Volunteer Service Impact Award

Name of nominee/member: Jack Frick

National Service Program and/or host organizations: Dubuque Arboretum & Botanical Gardens

Nominator Name: Carole Loetscher/Keith Nilles, Volunteer Associates

Please tell us a little about the background and personal circumstances relating to the individual or organization being nominated for the award:

Effective March 31, 2021 Jack Frick retired as President of the Dubuque Arboretum & Botanical Gardens, but continued on as a member of the Board of Directors. Jack has been a devoted volunteer for over 40 years. From its beginning in 1980, Jack has worked tirelessly on the grounds and in the office of the Dubuque Arboretum. It adds up to 41 years of planting trees, weeding, watering, and trimming bushes and trees on the grounds; doing office functions including banking, bill paying, accounts receivable, investing and soliciting funds; welcoming visitors and giving tours; and recruiting, supporting and giving appreciation to individual volunteers and volunteer groups. After his retirement from his Customer Service Job, he often worked as a volunteer seven days a week at the Arboretum. Finally, the Board insisted that he take Mondays off. For many years, he led a team of gardeners on Saturday mornings that would tend to whatever needed to be done to help maintain the grounds. One Saturday morning after watering many new trees and shrubs, we were returning to the shop with a golf cart when we passed a huge Spruce tree. From under the tree branches; a voice called out, "hello you two". It was Jack under the tree pulling weeds. Unfortunately, Jack was working around poison ivy and encountered its effects.

Please tell us about the service effort relating to the Nominee. Please include what have they done and how long have they volunteered, how frequently, how many hours, etc:

Jack has over the years participated in every aspect of the Arboretum. He has performed many functions in his 41 years of volunteering at the Arboretum. He has worked tirelessly as noted above. We do not know the total hours he volunteered, but during his term as president, he probably worked 40-50 hours per week for many years during the spring, summer and fall seasons as well as some during the winter, probably a minimum of 14,500 for the ten years. During the prior 31 years, we would estimate that he may have worked 10-20 hours per week during the spring, summer and fall seasons, a minimum of 320 hours per year. Therefore, we would estimate that he committed a minimum of approximately 24,400 hours to the Arboretum.

How has the Nominee made a significant contribution to a population, organization, or community through their volunteer service:

Jack is a person, always offering a friendly greeting to visitors and volunteers. He encourages everyone to become a volunteer and many discovered it to be a rewarding volunteer experience. In fact, Jack's good friend and former Executive Vice-President, Wylie Bledsoe, refers to the Arboretum as his "Happy Place". We could have nominated all 350 plus volunteers for their dedication to creating a "Place of Heaven" at the Dubuque Arboretum & Botanical Gardens. However, it is Jack Frick who "Stands the Tallest".

How has the Nominee demonstrated exceptional initiative and involvement in their community:

Jack has dedicated 41 years to the Dubuque Arboretum. I believe all one has to do is visit the Arboretum and witness its beauty or attend an outdoor summer evening concert (seeing Jack meeting, greeting and welcoming people to the Arboretum) to recognize Jack's exceptional initiative and involvement in his community.

How has the nominee demonstrated a spirit of service among groups of people and organizations:

In addition to Jack's commitment to the Arboretum, he is also an active member of the Rotary Club of Dubuque and the Dubuque Noon Lions Club.

How has the nominee displayed exemplary dedication and commitment to their volunteer service?:

Jack has committed over 41 years to help fulfill the dreams of the original Arboretum founders.