

Carla Miller wins Award for volunteer service
April 7, 2000



Friday, April 7, 2000

City's volunteers honored

By David Bauerlein
Times-Union staff writer

The Celebration of Service 2000 event lauded individuals, companies and groups for work on the front line of volunteerism.

"We don't make our decisions based on power or money," said Judy Smith, executive director of Volunteer Jacksonville, which sponsored the event along with WTLV TV-12 and The Business Journal. "We make our decisions based on servant leaders, people who are willing to serve and who lead through that service, and Gertrude is probably one of the most humble leaders."

Volunteerism slumped in the late 1980s and early 1990s, but since then, it has picked up steam, Smith said. Companies increasingly view volunteer activities as part of their corporate mission, she said, and the cause also has received attention from national figures, such as retired Gen. Colin Powell.

Nationally, surveys have found that 56 percent of Americans are involved in some kind of volunteer activity, she said. The Jacksonville Community Council Inc. commissioned a survey that found 64 percent of people in Jacksonville are involved in volunteer work, Smith said.

In the Golden Rule Award categories, winners were John R. Allen Jr. for youth volunteer; Elwood Thalheimer for senior volunteer; Carla Miller for corporate volunteer; and Pam Savoy for educational volunteer.