

## HUMANITARIAN AWARD RECIPIENT 2010



John and Joyce Williams of Richmond, Michigan joined FCRV in 1993. Like many of us, John and Joyce intended to spend more time in their RV when they retired. But, they chose a road less travelled. They did not head toward the coast, the mountains, or the desert. Instead, they journeyed to various locations to help those less fortunate. They've helped clean up after natural disasters, built homes in poverty stricken areas, worked in church camps, and raised money for numerous charitable organizations. Following is a summary of humanitarian activities in which they've been involved.

Since they retired in 1997 John and Joyce Williams have volunteered over 34,000 hrs of time (with no reimbursement for their expenses) to several organizations:

- Habitat for Humanity International
- Craftsmen for Christ
- COM (Campers on Mission)
- Ford Volunteer Corp.
- Fuller Center for Housing
- Global Builders
- NPS (National Park Service) (volunteering at the Jimmy Carter Boyhood Farm and High School in Plains, GA)
- NOMADS (Nomads on a Mission Active in Devine Service)
- Nut'n But Love Ministries (our own Puppet Ministry)
- Praise Gang Puppeteers
- ROAM (RV's on a Mission)
- RV Care-a-Vanners
- RV Work & Witness

SOWERS (Servants on Wheels Eveready)

In the past year they have given 2300 hours to Habitat for Humanity in helping to build homes and major earthquake relief. John has worked on the model of the house's that were built in Mexico in 2004, on a model home for Sri Lanka, and on the model home for India.

Over the past couple of years they have helped build many homes in Vero Beach, FL; Anniston, AL ( this was a pre-build for the 2003 Jimmy Carter Work Project); Columbus, GA; Americus, GA; Detroit, MI (this was in conjunction with the Jimmy & Rosalyn Carter Work Project where 230 homes were built through out Michigan in 2005); and Phoenix City, AL.

They prefer to do the behind scenes work. They do not feel that being in the spotlight is necessary. For them the small jobs, which many people do not want to do, are just as important as the person who wants in the public eye. Most recently, they have been helping to assemble the shelter kits for Haiti, helping to send out receipts for donations, volunteering in an office.

They have also worked at Church Camps in several places in FL, GA, MI, & TN. At these camps they have helped build cabins, remodeled cabins, done painting, general maintenance, helped build a multi purpose building, helped build an archery range & Beebe gun range, laid block, helped in the kitchen and even have dug ditches (over knee deep in mud).

They have worked on tornado, hurricane, earthquake relief and reconstruction most recently Haiti.

They have helped raise money for:

- American Red Cross
- Habitat for Humanity
- Rotary International
- Shrines Burn Center
- Salvation Army
- St Clair Child Abuse/Neglect Council (St Clair County MI)

And many more

Joyce has also learned some sign language to help communicate with the hearing impaired. This is not easy for her as she suffered a close head injury several years ago which has required extensive rehabilitation.

In 2006 they worked on an Extreme Makeover Home Edition home for a family they have known for several years. Unfortunately, Maryanne had lost her husband David on Christmas Eve in 2005. Now she had six children to raise and a house that they could not live in because of toxic mold that had taken David's life. John & Joyce along with many other volunteers helped to construct a seven bedroom house

for Maryanne and her family.

Maryanne has since remarried and has added two more children to the family. She is grateful to John & Joyce as well as everyone else that has helped her and her family.

They have traveled to many Churches and Camps to share with them their Puppet Ministry called *Nut 'n But Love Ministries*. Joyce plays her hammered Dulcimer, does puppets, and signs to songs. John is the narrator and together they do the Gospel illusions and stories.

John & Joyce are also very active in both of their Church's both in MI and GA. In fact they are charter members of their Church in MI. They help each year with the Church yard sale to support the Vacation Bible School program, and they are very active with the VBS program and other activities in their Church. Joyce uses her sign language to express her love for the Lord by signing some songs for the hearing impaired.

Joyce served as a representative for her Uncle Norman for his physical and medical needs when her Mother was no longer able and none of her Aunts wanted the job. Joyce was delighted to help her Uncle. Norman had a very rare condition called Aperts Syndrome. Aperts patients do not normally live past 20 - 40 years. Norman was 72 when he died making him the world's oldest Aperts Syndrome patient. During the last two years of his life Joyce was called to the hospital many times in the middle of the night to advocate for her Uncle since the hospital staff could not understand him and knew nothing about Aperts Syndrome. She has even gone as far as having a Dr. removed from his case when she believed the Dr. was not treating her Uncle with the respect he deserved.

Joyce was a substitute Sunday School Teacher by the time she was in the ninth grade in the Church she grew up in.

John's obtained rank as Sergeant in the Army during his three years of service in Vietnam.

John served as an Alter Boy in the Church he grew up in.

John & Joyce spend six or more months away from home each year doing volunteer work and loving every moment of it. A comment often heard from them is: "The Lord has given so much to us; this is how we can give back."

When in Michigan, John and Joyce are the glue that binds the Blue Water District together. They host two district campouts; one in the spring and one in the fall. All of the funds raised at these campouts are donated to local charities in the name of FCRV. This district has developed a very close camping relationship with the Ontario Provincial Association. Some humanitarian deeds directly related to camping activities include:

- Helped collect tabs for Ronald McDonald House.

- Helped raise money for medical bills for a member who suffered a devastating stroke.
- Was instrumental in donating money from their district when a member's motor home was destroyed by a fire and again when a district member totaled their travel trailer. Assisted RVers when they were broke down on road or at a campout.

Attached are letters from several people who have been directly involved with the Williams' tireless humanitarian contributions. We are deeply touched by the outpouring of gratitude expressed consistently by each writer. We are very proud and fortunate to have John and Joyce Williams as lifetime members and ambassadors of Family Campers and RVers. We truly believe they are deserving of the 2010 Humanitarian Award for their many years of diverse and continuous service.