

Rotary Club of Beaumont names Vocational Excellence Award recipients

The Rotary Club of Beaumont named recipients of its Vocational Excellence Awards Wednesday, Nov. 15. The program allows Rotarians to award community members who are the fabric of society and who may not normally be recognized for their diligence.

"It is important to recognize members of our community that do ordinary things in an extraordinary way," said Tim Sudela, Rotary Club of Beaumont president. "Their enthusiasm is contagious when they share their service above self-spirit. When we affirm this passion for excellence, it spreads that spirit throughout our community."



Judge Marcia Crone (left) nominated Marcia Alexander (right) for a Vocational Excellence Award. Alexander is owner of Alterations & Designs. Growing up in Trinidad, Alexander learned her trade in New York and is now an asset to the community. Judge Crone mentioned that she has been a customer of Alexander's for over 15 years.

Sara Gubala and Kennedy receive the Vocational Excellence Award from Rotary Club of Beaumont president Tim Sudela Wednesday, Nov. 15 for being a 'huge part of the Sacred Work team at Baptist Hospital for many years.' Although Sara has a full time job at Lamar University, she can often be found roaming the halls of the nursing unit at Baptist Hospital, and serving countless hours in Port Arthur assisting residents affected by Hurricane Harvey. Sara and Kennedy were nominated by Mary Poole.



Dale Rutherford (center) has been a constant presence at White Tire Company in Beaumont for over five years. His nominee, Pat Anderson (right), describes Rutherford as knowledgeable, helpful and always willing to provide answers to any questions he receives. This product knowledge allows customers to have confidence with their purchase decisions. Rutherford received the Vocational Excellence Award on Nov. 15 from Rotary Club of Beaumont President Tim Sudela.



Judge Marcia Crone (left) nominated Marcia Alexander (right) for a Vocational Excellence Award. Alexander is owner of Alterations & Designs. Growing up in Trinidad, Alexander learned her trade in New York and is now an asset to the community. Judge Crone mentioned that she has been a customer of Alexander's for over 15 years.



The Wavers — Bobby Frank and Larry Payne — create an automatic smile and a reflex to wave. Serving as BISD crossing guards for BISD at the corner of Dowlen and Westgate, these gentlemen ensure the safety of students at a very busy intersection. 'But it's how they do their job that is so special,' and why they were nominated by Beaumont Chamber of Commerce President Regina Lindsey (right) for the Vocational Excellence Award. 'With an infectious smile and a friendly wave, they lift the spirits of everyone that passes that way.' The two received the award Wednesday, Nov. 15, from Rotary Club of Beaumont President Tim Sudela (left).



Douglas Fair (right) nominated Carlo Busceme III posthumously for a Vocational Excellence Award. Fair described Carlo as an outstanding advocate of people and the arts throughout Southeast Texas. His support benefited several organizations including AMSET, Lamar University Friends of the Arts, and the Symphony of Southeast Texas, where he served as board chair. Devoted to his faith and his family, Busceme always wore a smile and was happy to see you, Fair said. His son, Carlo Busceme IV, accepted the award on his father's behalf.

Dr. Donna Prudhomme (center) receives the Vocational Excellence Award from Rotary Club of Beaumont president Tim Sudela (left) on Wednesday, Nov. 15. She has worked for BISD for 22 years in several capacities and currently serves as the principal for Clifton J. Ozen High School, where she welcomed students from the damaged Paul Brown Center and Central High School. She also has orchestrated a clothing drive for students, and is planning another one for the Christmas holidays. Prudhomme promotes excellence in education by providing parent/student enrichment seminars. She was nominated for this award by Sean M. Perrodin (right).



Andy Gardner (center) will be celebrating his 25th year service anniversary with the Art Museum of Southeast Texas in February. He was nominated for a Vocational Excellence Award by AMSET Executive Director Lynn P. Castle and received the award from Rotary president Tim Sudela on Nov. 15. During Hurricane Harvey, there was serious concern that the museum may receive as much as 7 feet of floodwater, Castle said. Gardner organized staff members to protect the art and other valuable assets before placing sandbags at appropriate spots. In her comments, Castle also cited his eternal optimism, integrity, and high ethical standards that he exhibits every day.



Helen Cathey, store manager at Sears, was instrumental in the Rotary Shoe Project for Martin Elementary. Cathey (second from right) was nominated by Becky Mason (left) and Rosie Delano (right) for the Vocational Excellence Award. She received the award Nov. 15 from Rotary president Tim Sudela. Cathey provided the coordination, a special Rotary discount, and several Brannock devices to help outfit over 600 Martin Elementary students with a new pair of shoes.



Photos by Jim Baxter