

2007 New Jersey State Jefferson Awards



SALUTE YOUR 2007 AWARDS HONOREE, RON THRONDSO

NOMINATED BY WILLIAM CROSBY



From left: Nominator William Crosby and honoree Ron Thronpson



From left: George Arwady, Publisher of the Star-Ledger, honoree Ron Thronpson and Sam Beard, co-founder of the Jefferson Awards

Do you know someone who makes a difference in your community?

If you do, then nominate them for the prestigious Jefferson Award by visiting www.nj.com/jeffersonawards

Jefferson Awards honor ordinary people who, through public service, do extraordinary things for other people, their community, their nation, or the environment.

Ron's interest has been the Handyman Program that he created, which utilizes volunteers to perform minor home repairs for residents who cannot afford to pay for them. As a professional contractor, he used his expertise to form the guidelines of the program. Once the services of the program were offered to the disabled population, requests to install safety bars almost tripled. Ron was the only Handyman who knew how to install them. Recognizing this as a problem, Ron quickly put together a "how to" training program and presented it to the other volunteers. This resulted in additional volunteers able to do this repair enabling the program to accomplish every safety bar request to date. He designed the ramps, wrote the specs, calculated the amount of lumber and hardware needed and recruited other volunteers for this project. By the end of 2006, the volunteers have completed 21 wheelchair ramps.