

2008 New Jersey State Jefferson Awards



RAYMOND VELLA YOUR 2008 AWARDS MEDALIST

NOMINATED BY ANGELA SALAZAR



From left: Sam Beard, co-founder of the Jefferson Awards, medalist Raymond Vella, and Hans Dekker, from the Community Foundation of New Jersey.



From left: Raymond Vella and his nominator Angela Salazar, who is now Angela Vella

Raymond Vella founded an organization called the Raymond Vella Civic Association in 2004. Raymond Vella not only helps sponsor athletic youth groups, but also contributes to organizations that help at-risk children. Some of these contributions include funds, providing athletic uniforms, shirts, soccer balls, trophies, award ceremonies, and medals. In the past three years, Mr. Vella has donated over one hundred Thanksgiving baskets (consisting of turkeys, mashed potatoes, corn, yams, and baking trays). During the

Christmas holiday Mr. Vella makes sure that every student that is a part of the Elizabeth special needs recreation program receives a wrapped gift from Santa. In 2006, his association made a generous donation to one of the local elementary schools to fund a performance of "Annie." They used the donation to create props and accessories for the play. In addition he supports the City of Elizabeth's "National Night Out." Mr. Vella has also been a great supporter of the Special Olympics Elizabeth Chapter.

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.



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