

PARK DISTRICT OF OAK PARK



# 2004 Community Service Awards

February 17, 2005

In partnership with the community, we provide quality parks and recreation experiences for the residents of Oak Park.

The Illinois Association of Park Districts and the Illinois Park and Recreation Association annually present Community Service Awards to individuals and organizations in recognition and appreciation of outstanding contribution and unselfish devotion for the advancement of parks, recreation and leisure in the community and the State of Illinois. The Park District of Oak Park would like to thank and congratulate this year's recipients:

Michael Bloch  
Community Bank of Oak Park & River Forest  
Dominican University  
Hugh Helfer  
Albert Love  
Park District Citizen Committee  
    Doug Varn, Chair  
    Patience Nelson, Vice-Chair  
    Martin J. Bracco  
    Jessica Bullock  
    Laura E. Kaufman  
    Katie Kelly  
    Susan Kurtenbach  
    Gail R. Moran

John Mullins  
Mary Kay O'Grady  
Rickey Sain Sr.  
David Stannard  
Kathy Stohr

### **Park District Citizen Committee**

Success has been described as an effort of slow diligence and steady perseverance. This devoted group of 13 volunteers successfully completed their mission by working steadfastly over a 14-month span to provide input and guidance to the Park District Board & Staff and Leisure Vision Consultants during the development of the Oak Park Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Plan. For their commitment to helping shape the future of the Park District of Oak Park, which will affect many Oak Park generations to come, we extend our sincerest gratitude.

### **Michael Bloch**

For over 11 years, Michael Bloch has been instrumental in overseeing the Park District's adult sports program. Michael was hired as the softball coordinator in 1993, took over the Men's and Women's Basketball league in 1994 and finally became the Volleyball coordinator in 1995. His commitment to the adult sports leagues went far beyond expectation. Scheduling and rescheduling games, coordinating groundskeepers and administrating the technical operations of each of these programs was accomplished seamlessly. We appreciate Michael Bloch's 11 years of service to the Park District of Oak Park and for continuing to provide guidance to the adult sports division.

### **Community Bank of Oak Park and River Forest**

Community Bank of Oak Park and River Forest has been a valued partner to the Park District for many years and, as a leading advocate of parks and recreation in our community, they have helped the Park District develop rewarding relationships with other organizations in Oak Park. Over the years, they have brought the community together by sponsoring the annual Fourth of July fireworks display and offered financial support for the Grand Opening of the Stevenson Park Active Sports Area held in October 2004. We extend our sincere gratitude to Community Bank of Oak Park and River Forest for helping the Park District accomplish our mission of providing excellent service "in partnership with the community.

### **Dominican University**

Dominican University became the very first anchor sponsor and partner of the Park District's Frank Lloyd Wright Races in 2004. From monetary support to providing staff assistance for event coordination and marketing, Dominican University played a key role in making the 2004 Races the most successful race event in years. Also in 2004, Dominican offered financial support for the much needed resurfacing of several tennis courts throughout the Park District. We are grateful for the support and generosity of Dominican University which has not only positively impacted the programs and services we provide, but has ultimately benefited our entire community.

### **Albert Love**

During his 15 year tenure at the Park District, Mr. Love has become the most well known name and face at Dole Center. Hired in 1990 to work for the Lighted Schoolhouse program, Mr. Love eventually moved on to the Adult & Senior Recreation Division where he continues to perform a number of tasks from working the front desk to ensuring Dole Center is safe and clean. His friendly demeanor and excellent customer service skills set the standard for the rest of the staff to follow. He greets all visitors to Dole Center like they are part of the family. Thank you, Mr. Love,

for always giving your best. The Park District of Oak Park is a better place to work and play because of you.

### **Hugh Helfer**

Hugh has been sharing his time and talents as a volunteer at the Oak Park Conservatory for 35 years. He was there when the wrecking ball was looming on the horizon and joined with other volunteers to spearhead an effort to save the Conservatory. He served as a FOPCON Board Member for 12 years and, during that time, was responsible for many physical improvements while chairing various fund raising events. Currently Hugh continues to volunteer each week to help with crop production and plant care. He is a trained docent and has led hundreds of school children on tours just as he did 35 years ago for his own children. Thank you, Hugh, for unselfishly giving your time, energy and talents to help make the Conservatory one of Oak Park's historical treasures.

### *2003 Community Service Award Recipients*

*Jim Boushay*

*Richard S. Nied*

*Joan Peters*

*Rickey Sain, Sr.*

*Alice Tulley*

### *2002 Community Service Award Recipients*

*John Armour*

*Elisabeth Austin*

*Tom Brashler*

*Pat Eichenold*

*Rick Kuner*

*Charles Ruedebusch*

*Don Stapleton*

*Phyllis Swanson*

*Joyce Taylor*

### *2001 Community Service Award Recipients*

*Nels Andersen*

*Larry Godson*

*Jim Hodapp*

*The Oak Park-River Forest Garden Club*

### *2000 Community Service Award Recipients*

*Bud and Laura Corry*

*The Friends of the Oak Park Conservatory*

*Lesley Gilmore and Bob Franzen, Gilmore Franzen Architects Inc.*

*Paul Hruby*

