

And The "Do-Gooder" Award Goes To...

by Supervisor Tim Arnold

I looked up the word "do-gooder" in Wikipedia only to find out there is not a definition of the word. However, 41 percent of the voters of the Intelligencer and Bucks County Courier Times felt differently. They felt the definition should be the Pride of Quakertown (POQ).

Let's start from the beginning. In 2013, The Intelligencer and Bucks County Courier Times featured stories of 10 charitable organizations in our community. Initially, more than 70 different nonprofits were nominated by the readers of the Intelligencer and the Bucks County Courier Times, but the top 10 were finally selected by the editors of the papers.

The prize for being chosen the top "do-gooder" was \$5,000 worth of public service advertising space in The Intelligencer and another \$5,000 in public service advertising space in the Bucks County Courier Times.

Some people who are reading this are wondering who the Pride of Quakertown (POQ) is. And what do they do? Well I think their mission statement sums it up.

"We shall raise money to fund youth scholarships that allow children in need to participate in extracurricular activities and build positive youth development. We shall support other reputable local charities with similar values and build lifelong friendships between the residents of Quakertown, PA, and the surrounding communities through team sports and leisure activities."

Why was POQ started? According to Steve & Jen Reich, two of the several founding organizers, "POQ was started to help local youth get involved in positive extra-curricular activities that they wouldn't otherwise be able to afford. We feel strongly that providing opportunities like these

enriches the lives of children and leads to a better future for them."

Although POQ, which is a completely volunteer-run organization, was not officially considered a "charitable organization" until 2010, they began implementing their mission statement in 2008 by raising money for several organizations such as Richland Area Softball Association (RASA) and the Quakertown food pantry. Since then, POQ has supported 357 activities with over \$79,000 being granted in scholarships.

When I asked about a waiting list, I was told that there are presently 27 children on the list. According to Jen, "The wait time is unfortunately pretty long, almost a year, because when we help a child we commit to helping them until they graduate from high school or turn 18. Our goal is to help them throughout their childhood, not

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Do-Gooder Award

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for just one summer."

Most recently, POQ has started a program appropriately named "Sponsor-A-Child." Sponsor-A-Child allows a donor to see how the amount of money they are donating will actually help a child. For instance, \$25 will pay for one month of dance class or \$75 will pay for one month of karate.

Now you're thinking, I now know what the POQ is but what can I do? There are several things; first of all you can sponsor a child. Without sounding like one of those teary eyed commercials that we see on TV, but for only \$1 a day you can help a child get involved in an activity that they were originally told that they couldn't participate in because funds were not available. Or you can spread the word about POQ and let people know what a great organization they are.

As a Richland Township Supervisor, I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate POQ for their achievement in winning the "do-gooder" award and I would like to thank them for the passion and the care that they show for the children in our community. Keep up the good work.

Below I listed several fund raising events that POQ hosts throughout the year. Hopefully, you can make an event and meet some of the great volunteers of the Pride of Quakertown.

- June 20th - Golf Outing
- July 19th - Dash & Dip 5k
- September 12th & 13th - Neighborhood Softball Tournament
- Monster Bash coming in October

For more information about these events or about POQ, please visit their web site at www.prideofquakertown.org or you can also follow them on Facebook.

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