

**Florida League of Cities  
Florida Cities of Excellence Awards  
Nomination for Citizen of the Year**

**Doug Williams  
City of Clearwater**

Doug Williams is that unique individual who is everywhere you go, smiling and lending a hand or smiling and leading the charge. If there is a task force for a community effort, Doug has probably been appointed to it. If there is a board that directs the efforts of others, he has most likely sat on it. If there is a civic group that is making a difference in the community, you'll find Doug leading its projects.

A former successful Wall Street banking executive, Doug has a singular gift for remembering people, knowing who key workers are and treating them well. He continues to capitalize on that ability even though he no longer uses it to make a living. He finds it satisfying to use his talents to make a life – for everyone he meets as well as himself. While his talent with people earned him wealth and respect as a banker, he continues to use it to cultivate friends and new colleagues. “My friends are very close,” he says. “But I know everyone.”

Following a long career that took him from Wall Street to California to Florida, Doug retired in 1995 from SunTrust Bank, but his seemingly limitless energy still needed an outlet. Civic service became his new full-time avocation. Dr. Don Auerbach, one of Doug's many colleagues in Clearwater Kiwanis said, “To get done what Doug does, you'd have to hire 10 guys who are half his age. You can't say enough about how indispensable and dependable he is.” Doug will be 70 on his next birthday, but you'd never guess that from the sheer volume of activities in which he's involved. “It's just what I do,” Doug says.

Doug is on the Greater Clearwater Chamber of Commerce Board, is serving his second term on the Municipal Code Enforcement Board and is currently the Treasurer of his neighborhood association.

Doug signed up for the city's first citizen's academy several years ago, and this year has proved invaluable to the city as he has remained involved in continuing service opportunities for its alumni. When Clearwater faced a budget crisis with falling property values and the effects of Amendment One, Doug was appointed to the city's Budget Task Force to come up with creative ways stretch the city's tax money. Public input was sought when solutions were placed on the table, and Doug quickly stepped up to serve as a facilitator for a series of public budget workshops that ensued. In addition, he worked with the Clearwater Police Department, serving as a facilitator for their budget meetings as well.

One of his signature projects is a Kiwanis-sponsored children's health fair that he has organized for each of the last six years. He manages to broker deals on materials and supplies from commercial vendors who normally rent them at a premium, persuades hospital organizations, doctors and nurses to donate precious time, and knows how to rake in donations and other sources of funding. He personally oversees getting the money where it's needed and nurtures good will among donors and recipients that helps grow the project each year. "If I provide that opportunity, then everyone can do what they do best," he says. "I'm there for questions, but that's all I do." This year the event was held at one of Clearwater's largest recreation facilities and nearly 400 school children will go back to school with shots and sports physicals and other medical advice that will make them safer.

Doug is also active in United Way events such as *Paint Your Heart Out Clearwater!* and has been on its board for the past five years. You'll find him with a paint brush or working as a team organizer to spruce up deserving citizens' homes in Clearwater.

As an advocate for the environment this year he was instrumental in organizing the city's first Living Green Expo, a city of Clearwater event that brings together city, county and state organizations, public and private environmental groups and clubs, vendors of green products and services and environmental enthusiasts to promote sustainable living. Doug served as liaison between exhibitors and the organizing committee and was instrumental in making sure the event ran smoothly.

He also enjoys organizing sporting events, and each year works behind the scenes of a popular Fourth of July foot race in nearby Dunedin called "The Midnight Run." This year he served as the Safety Coordinator for the event.

His interests are as varied as they are numerous. One of his favorite hobbies is operating a HAM radio, and he has parlayed that into an array of public safety uses that will make him indispensable in the event of a hurricane or other natural disaster. He is an Assistant Emergency Manager for Pinellas County and the Traffic Manager for the West Central Florida Chapter of the American Radio Relay League, the national organization for HAM radio operators. When Clearwater Fire & Rescue offered to train citizens to supplement fire personnel as first responders in the event of a hurricane or natural

disaster, Doug was one of the first to sign up, adding disaster preparedness and a Citizens Emergency Response Team certification to his radio skills.

While Doug's enthusiasm for everything bubbles over in his personality, he manages to remain relatively anonymous. He can provide a lively discourse on a community board or a task force he served on or any one of dozens of events in which he's been involved, but you'll never see him seeking personal credit for any of them. Underlying his exuberance is a rock solid sense of duty, service and integrity. It is more important to him that he recognize these qualities in others as well, and he finds opportunities to bring them out in his associates to the betterment of the world. Doug is one of those rare individuals whose presence is felt in the expanding ripples of positive community change. This is why he deserves the honor of Citizen of the Year.