

# City of Gainesville, Florida

Office of Mayor Edward B. Braddy  
PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Nature Centers Commission presents the annual Star Awards to recognize individuals, groups, businesses or organizations for their positive contribution to Gainesville's natural environment; and

WHEREAS, Star Good Neighbor Award recipient Maria Huff-Edwards is being recognized for being a force for good in Gainesville's Grove Street Neighborhood. Ms. Edwards has volunteered as a site coordinator for Dreamers Garden and expanded her efforts to include the beautification of the surrounding neighborhood. Ms. Edwards realizes the importance of Gainesville's Urban Forest and understands that trees are an important part of Gainesville's image as a place where residents value the environment. Over the past year she coordinated the installation of over 30 trees, recruiting volunteers from the neighborhood and educating them about the importance of maintaining one of our city's greatest assets - our tree canopy! ; and

WHEREAS, the Baker Family: Shirley, Andy, Arthur and Alex, have been awarded the Star Volunteer Award for their outstanding volunteer contributions at Morningside Nature Center and Gainesville's natural areas. the Baker family has been participating in and supporting environmental and cultural history programs at Morningside Nature Center since before the boys could walk or talk! They are active participants in the City's Annual Great Air Potato Round-Up (now called Great Invader Raider Rally). Andy, Arthur and Alex all volunteer as Junior Naturalists at Earth Academy Day Camp. The Bakers have also taken an active role in Morningside's Living History Programs, eagerly assisting this past year and half on the first Saturday of the month and during special events. Over the past year they have volunteered nearly 400 hours!

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Edward B. Braddy, by the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Gainesville, do hereby proclaim March 3, 2016 as

*Maria Huff-Edwards Day and Shirley, Andy, Arthur and Alex Baker Day*

in the City of Gainesville and invite all our citizens to join me in recognizing Maria Huff-Edwards and Shirley, Andy, Arthur and Alex Baker and expressing our appreciation for their service, dedication and positive contributions to Gainesville's natural environment.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official seal of the City of Gainesville, Florida, this 25<sup>th</sup> day of January, A.D., 2016.



*Edward B. Braddy*  
Edward B. Braddy  
Mayor