

HOMETOWN NEWS

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TEMPERATURE



Andy Stefanek/staff photographer

Rockledge city employee, Thomas Reed, is awarded the Community Champion Award by Congressman Bill Posey, R-Rockledge, and Reality Check Foundation president, Larry Lawton, in the city council chambers of the city of Rockledge. Mr. Reed donates his time and personal money to families in need, outside his job and on weekends.

County resident wins Reality Check Foundation Community Champion Award

Honor was presented Oct. 12 at
Rockledge City Hall by Congressman Bill Posey
and Senator Mike Haridopolos

By Sue DeWerff
For Hometown News

Donating his time to help people by moving furniture, donating clothing, fixing appliances, giving money to needy families and being there with a shoulder to lean on are just a few of the many qualities Thomas Reed of Titusville says are just a part of his daily routine.

On Oct. 12, he was awarded the Reality Check Foundation Community Award and honored as an outstanding citizen in the community.

In attendance were Congressman Bill Posey and state Senator Mike Haridopolos, as well as 40 others, including his family and many city of Rockledge employees.

Mr. Reed was nominated for the award by Rockledge city manager Jim McKnight. He was selected from a list of 20 nominees.

Thus far, three awards have been given by the Reality Check Foundation, a nonprofit charity that strives

to educate both adults and teens to make good choices and offers scholarship programs and motivational seminars to the public.

"I was told that I was going to help the city of Rockledge move some furniture at their offices, and when I walked into a room full of dignitaries, I was shocked to find out the real reason I was there," said Mr. Reed, a six-year Waste Management employee for the city of Rockledge. "I felt like some kind of a celebrity during the presentation."

A deacon at the Good Shepherd Church in Titusville and a choir member, Mr. Reed works with many pastors in Brevard County.

He is an inspiration to many in his church, says Larry Lawton, president of the Reality Check Foundation. He believes in doing what he does — helping others as much as he can.

Mr. Lawton is president and founder of the Reality Check Program, which helps teens and young adults

make good choices. He is an ex-convict and a certified paralegal after 11 years in federal prison. He now has a passion for helping young people before they are arrested, or worse.

Mr. Reed was presented with a \$150 cash prize in addition to a plaque and several gift cards donated by local merchants throughout the county, including Walmart, Matt's Casbah and Shorelane Bowling Center in Melbourne.

The Reality Check Foundation, founded by Mr. Lawton, offers a live radio show on AM 1300 WMEL and accepts donations for the Reality Check programs from both individual donors and business sponsors.

Distribution of Reality Check DVD's and information relating to the charity can be acquired at www.realitycheckfoundation.org or by contacting Larry Lawton at (321) 321-2921.