



**Florida Recreation and Park Association, Inc.  
2022 Voluntary Service Award**

**Nomination Form**

The Florida Recreation and Park Association's Voluntary Service Award is presented annually to citizens, businesses or organizations whose contributions of volunteer service over a period of time, have improved the quality and quantity of leisure opportunities through parks, recreation and leisure service programs and projects in neighborhoods, communities, or the State of Florida.

**Volunteer efforts may include:**

- An individual or group contribution of time and effort to the parks, recreation and leisure services movement for a minimum of three years.
- Advocacy activity on behalf of parks, recreation and leisure services, through involvement in other organizations or endeavors outside the parks, recreation and leisure services field.
- Advocacy activity on behalf of parks, recreation or leisure services, through involvement in local or state legislative activity resulting in the heightened awareness of the benefits of parks, recreation and leisure services.

**APPLICANT INFORMATION:**

<b>Nominator Name</b>	Wendy Tatum, Director of Tennis and Pickleball Charlotte Presensky, Leisure Services Administrator
<b>Nominator Phone</b>	5616301184
<b>Nominator Address</b>	5110 117 <sup>th</sup> Ct North
<b>Nominator City/State/Zip</b>	Palm Beach Gardens, Fl 33418
<b>Nominator Email Address</b>	Wtatum@pbgfl.com
<b>Nominator Relationship to Nominee</b>	Operator of the City of Palm Beach Gardens Tennis Center/ Recreation Department
<b>Name of Nominee</b>	Jamie's Tennis Angels Amy and Jimmy Frank
<b>Nominee Address</b>	

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<b>City/State/Zip</b>	
<b>Nominee Contact (if needed)</b>	Amy Frank- Amjesfrank@gmail.com
<b>Nominee is a(n)</b>	Individual <b>Organization</b>
<b>Does this nominee represent an underrepresented population?</b>	Yes

**Jamie’s Angels Snapshot**

- Jimmy and Amy Frank began the volunteer-based program Jamie’s Angels in Late 2016
- Their mission was to provide free, monthly adaptive tennis programming to children and adults with special, physical, and cognitive needs and abilities.
- The Franks actively recruited large number of volunteers through their friends, children, and the Palm Beach Gardens Tennis Center member base.
- The large volunteer base allows the program to provide a one-on-one ratio
- They have taken a hands-on approach with Jamie’s Angel including set-up, check-in, clean-up, and additional costs.
- It is funded by the Frank Family in memory of their daughter/granddaughter/sister, Jamie Alexa.
- The program provides an enjoyable 1-hour monthly occasion for the benefit of community members with special needs.
- Qualified tennis professionals direct the play – which is adapted to the individual abilities of the participants.
- This program has worked with community volunteers to help numerous individuals, and their families, with disabilities of all ages enter the world of tennis. -Jacquelyn Birch  
Parent of Participant

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- This organization is committed to the belief that every individual should have the opportunity to have fun, while learning the game of tennis, and to feel supported by so many. -Jacquelyn Birch Parent of Participant
- This program has been offered at the PBG Tennis center since 2016.
- The parents are involved, and the atmosphere is lively and happy, truly because of the hard work of the founders of this organization, Amy and Jimmy Frank. They are diligent in making sure that every single participant is cared for, learning and having fun. - Julie Ross Parent of Participant

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### **Narrative 1**

Jamie's Tennis Angels, in partnership with The Palm Beach Gardens Tennis and Pickleball Center has had a tremendous impact on the special needs community in Palm Beach and Martin Counties. Jamie's Tennis Angels is a tennis program available to all special needs members of the community regardless of age, physical and cognitive disabilities. The mission of Jamie's Tennis Angels is to provide monthly adaptive tennis programming to children and adults with special physical and cognitive needs and abilities. The monthly clinics, open to all those with disabilities, create the opportunity for individuals to interact with their peers, get exercise, learn a new skill, and most of all, have fun! The special program can accommodate all skill levels from those who cannot hold or swing a tennis racquet to those who can successfully rally over the net with another player. Jamie's Tennis Angels is particularly proud that we have a combination of professional tennis coaches, volunteers, and a certified physical therapist on staff and on the court to provide an exceptional experience for all of our special needs athletes.

Since 2016, we have had a tremendous response from the special needs community as well as the volunteers who contribute their time and energy to work with our athletes. An additional benefit is the parent-to-parent interaction during the monthly clinics. Since 2016, we have had hundreds of participants and volunteers and a steady core of athletes and volunteers who show up each month.

Jamie's Tennis Angels is not restricted to any skill level, cognitive or physical limitation. We are proud to say we are open to all. We have a diverse group of both participants, volunteers, and coaches. Jamie's Tennis Angels is offered free of charge.

### **Narrative 2**

In late 2016, the Palm Beach Gardens Recreation Department-Tennis Center was approached by the Franks looking for away to honor their daughter Jamie and memorialize her beautiful spirit, as well as do something to help others with special needs. Given the family's love of tennis, Jimmy and Amy Frank

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approached the City of Palm Beach Gardens to establish a special needs tennis program. The goal was clear — to introduce to individuals with disabilities and their families the joys of tennis. As a result, in late 2016, Jamie’s Angels was born (the name was later changed to Jamie’s Tennis Angels).

The program first started in December 2016 with 20 participants and their families showing up. Over 40 volunteer tennis players showed up to support this program. These free classes provide an enjoyable monthly occasion for the benefit of community members with special needs. Qualified tennis professionals direct the play – which is adapted to the individual abilities of the participants – helped by enthusiastic volunteers, usually with a one-to-one player to volunteer ratio. It is funded by the Frank Family in memory of their daughter/granddaughter/sister, Jamie Alexa.

**Letters of Support**

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We are writing in support of Jamie's Tennis Angels to offer our highest recommendation of their special needs programming to The Florida Recreation and Park Association. It is our sincerest belief that this extraordinary volunteer program is deserving of the Service Award for its successful efforts to serve a population of the community in such need of this type of recreation.

We are so grateful to Jamie's Angels for this monthly tennis program. Not only is it a warm and fun group of volunteers, but it also offers a true athletic experience for our son, who is intellectually and physically challenged. The volunteers work with him in group activities, with music! Most important, there are one-on-one volunteers to help with skill development for most of the hour. That is incredible.

The parents are involved, and the atmosphere is lively and happy, truly because of the hard work of the founders of this organization, Amy and Jimmy Frank. They are diligent in making sure that every single participant is cared for, learning and having fun.

It is a family time we look forward to each month.

Julie and Mitch Ross

157 Segovia Way

Jupiter, Fl 33458

***Julie Chasen Ross***

**Ross Guidance and Educational Advocacy, LLC.**

**561 301 1618**



Dear Ms. Tatum,

It gives me great pleasure to write a letter of support as a participant family member of Jamie's Tennis Angels. This program has worked with community volunteers to help numerous individuals, and their families, with disabilities of all ages enter the world of tennis.

As the parent of a young adult with autism, visual impairment and other disabilities, our family was very excited to learn from our physical therapist about the arrival of Jamie's Tennis program from

its inception. I was pleasantly surprised that Christina was looking forward to learn about the sport of tennis. You see, previously, outdoor activities were not of interest to her. Not only was she

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excited about learning to play tennis, but she looked forward upon arrival to seeing the Frank family and the numerous engaging volunteers, especially the young men. From day one until the present time, Christina is always excited to arrive at the Gardens Tennis Center. If rain is in the forecast or tennis is canceled, for any reason, she becomes quite upset. It has become the highlight of her Saturday once a month.

We felt welcomed and supported from the time we walked into the Center until the time we left. Christina is a huge fan and tells her many friends they should come join her for Jamie's Tennis. Even more amazing, it is not necessary to have your own racket, balls, special shoes or clothing; just come and have an hour of fun on the court and a delicious snack at the end. It is exciting and rewarding to have such a wonderful inclusive, no cost (to the participants), community program available in our area. We have seen this program grow and many new players and volunteers arrive weekly. We owe a great deal of gratitude to the Frank family, the Gardens Tennis Center and all the volunteers who give of their time and talents monthly so that our family, and so many others, can enjoy a wonderful experience. It is especially wonderful for me to see my daughter out getting exercise, becoming more skilled, and adapting to use her vision to actually hit the ball across the net. When Christina first started playing, it was evident she couldn't see the ball. She faced an uphill challenge due to her inability to track the ball in the bright sun, the inability to run fast enough to reach the ball, and her lack of understanding the game. However, during each session she improved with the support of one-on-one volunteer coaches, cheering parents and enthusiastic fans. As an added benefit, I get to relax and socialize with other parents and caregivers.

This organization is committed to the belief that every individual should have the opportunity to have fun, while learning the game of tennis, and to feel supported by so many. It is a gift that our family sincerely appreciates and owes a debt of gratitude. After suffering such tragic loss, the founders of Jamie's Tennis Angels continue helping individuals with disabilities find, maintain and advance to achieve a high level of sportsmanship. They illustrate what growing community and love is all about.

Respectfully,

Jackie Birch, mother of Christina Birch

**Supplementary Material**

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