

# With a Servant's Heart Award



STATE OF GEORGIA  
Children's Cabinet

by: **Sandra Deal, First Lady of Georgia** photo: by **Picture This Studio**

***M* y personal view of a person with a servant's heart is someone who is innately kind and thoughtful; a person who notices simple needs and moves to help; one who is unbiased regarding those who need assistance and is moved to assist without expectation of recognition or reward; one whose heart reaches out to others and the recipients feel and appreciate the genuineness of the effort. A person with a servant's heart reacts selflessly for the good of others with acts of kindness, such as opening a door or actively planning an event to fulfill an observed need.**

The recent snowstorm in metro Atlanta revealed many acts of kindness from people with servant's hearts. From managers of stores who opened their doors to people who were stranded, offering warmth, restrooms and often food, to a man, who while trying to untangle cars blocking passage, discovered a man with a fragile medical condition. He and others gave assistance and saved a life. Many people spoke of the kindness of strangers who offered assistance in myriad ways and often names were not even exchanged. To me, they are the purest example of people with servant hearts. They come from all walks of life, but they rise to the occasion with the purest of motives and they give what they have to offer with a servant's heart.

## What is the Servant's Heart Award?

It is an opportunity for communities to recognize young people whose quiet acts of kindness and concern on a daily basis favorably impact the lives of other people. "Recognition is important to elevate and energize youth who are committed to being an agent of change within their community. We want the state to be inspired by the power these young people have to make a difference and hope that it may motivate others to take action," explains Katie Jo Ballard, executive director of the Governor's Office for Children and Families.

We humans are great imitators. From early childhood, we develop our patterns of behavior by observing people with whom we have contact and imitating them in word and deed. Our goal in honoring young people who are recommended by their county commissioners is to highlight outstanding service in the community which is voluntarily given in such a way that it is obviously from the heart. When the community acknowledges their efforts, we hope our children who are searching for role models will themselves imitate those good character traits. The goal of the Governor's Office for Children and Families is to build stronger communities through strengthening our children and families. I believe that volunteerism and service will help us reach that goal. 