

Drew and staff dress down for charities

Tax Collector John Drew, far left, and employees donated \$1,000 recently to four area nonprofits. Amy Reese of Donate Life of Florida, second from left, accepts a \$250 check to benefit Katie Ride for Life from Tracy Bazar, manager of property taxes, and Erica DuPree, manager of DMV.



By dressing more comfortably one day a week, Tax Collector John M. Drew and staff have generated more than \$6,000 for area nonprofits since 2006. Employees gladly contribute \$2 for the opportunity to wear their best blue jeans each Friday

"Our weekly 'Jeans Day' has been a very popular way for our office to help local charities," Drew explained. "And, we are always careful to explain to the public that the one-day-a-week event is to raise money for organizations that need our help."

This year, the employees voted to award \$250 to each of four organizations: Katie Ride for Life; Community Hospice of Northeast Florida; The Nassau County Council on Aging; and the Yulee Food Pantry. "Each of the organizations chosen this year makes a real impact on the lives of Nassau County residents," Drew said.

Last year's recipients included \$500 to the James S. Page Scholarship at Florida State College, Betty P. Cook Nassau Center. The scholarship was created in 2011 to honor Page, who died in 2007 after 27 years of service as Nassau County's property appraiser. Other recipients have included the American Cancer Society and Micah's Place, as well as recurring gifts to the Council on Aging and Community Hospice.

"Two years ago, we helped purchase equipment for the Nassau County Fire Department Honor Guard," Drew said. "Each time the guard members Post the Colors, it is nice to know that our office played a small role."

Tax Collector's Office Supports Page Scholarship



In honor of former Nassau County Property Appraiser James Page's life and legacy, the tax collector's office contributed \$500 to a scholarship fund established in his memory. The money was raised by contributions made by Drew and the office's employees.

Page was a lifelong resident of Nassau County and a 1966 graduate of Callahan High School. He was a veteran, having served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War. Upon his return to Nassau County and civilian life, he worked in construction, then in the Property Appraiser's Office as chief field supervisor and chief deputy. Ultimately he was elected Nassau County Property Appraiser in 1980, serving the public for more than 30 years.

"James always valued education," said Patsy Page, his wife of 38 years and a former professor of nursing at what is now Florida State College at Jacksonville. "It's with extreme pride that his sons, Shane and Kevin, and I establish this scholarship fund in his name, and contribute to the education of a Nassau County student."