

# IFEA / Zambelli Fireworks Volunteer of the Year Award 2017

**Zambelli**  
FIREWORKS



## **Becky Browder** Nominated by the Riverbend Festival, Chattanooga, TN

Becky Browder has volunteered with the Riverbend Festival since 1983. This year, Friends of the Festival is honoring and celebrating her 30 plus years of service with the organization. Becky portrays the epitome of leadership and hard work by being a dedicated member of the Board of Directors and devoting countless hours assisting the Festival's full-time staff. Throughout the years she has served in various roles with Friends of the Festival, most recently as Vice President and chair for the Festival Visitor Enhancement Committee. She has been an effective member of the Executive Committee and chair of the VIP Hospitality Committee and served in other positions during her tenure with the Festival. She has taken on many critical roles and has provided vital support for the Festival, such as serving as an active hands-on member of various committees. Understanding the importance of the growth and progression of the Festival, she has provided valuable support and guidance.

Throughout Becky's professional career with Hamilton County Government, she has been active in community service. For example, she was a founding member of the committee that launched the annual Hamilton County Fair, serving as publicity chair for ten years, in addition to being named the publicity chair for the Hamilton County Bicentennial Committee for the State of Tennessee. She has worked on fundraising campaigns for Girls Preparatory School, United Way, Allied Arts, Bright School and other non-profits.

The IFEA and Zambelli Fireworks are pleased to announce Becky Browder from Riverbend Festival in Chattanooga, Tennessee as the recipient of the 2017 IFEA/Zambelli Fireworks Volunteer of the Year Award.

As this year's winner, Becky will be the guest of the IFEA and Zambelli Fireworks at the IFEA's 62nd Annual Convention, Expo & Retreat September 14-16, 2017 in Tucson, Arizona. She will be recognized and presented with her award during the IFEA Awards Luncheon on Thursday, September 14, 2017.

Please help us congratulate our 2017 IFEA/Zambelli Fireworks Volunteer of the Year Award Winner, Becky Browder.

Becky also played a key role in the Walnut Street Bridge restoration that saved the iconic Walnut Street Bridge in downtown Chattanooga as well as being instrumental in the transfer of land at Moccasin Bend to the National Park Service.

Becky's enthusiasm is contagious. You cannot be around Becky more than a few minutes without buying into her vision. Not only does she bring excitement to any group she is working with, she also promotes an attitude of teamwork. Her unique approach to problem solving has a proven record of success in organizing and involving all committee members with specific roles.

Becky never waits to see if someone else is going to make things happen. She takes the initiative and leads by example when a need arises from "working in the trenches" to serving on the Board of Directors. Through her years of service, she has been an instrumental part of Riverbend becoming an award-winning festival that attracts more than 350,000 people annually and includes 8 days, 5 stages with over 100 live musical performances and much more.

Consistency is the key word in describing her dependability. There is no substitute for the 30 plus years she has tirelessly volunteered to ensure the continued viability of the Riverbend Festival as it serves the community she loves. Becky has seldom missed a Board or committee meeting or a night of the Festival. When assigned a task, Becky takes that assignment seriously and accomplishes it on time and with dedication.

Becky has a great attitude and her passion for the Riverbend Festival and Chattanooga in general is evident. While the Festival has evolved enormously over the 36 years, she has worked and

supported the organization's direction and embraces its many changes. Although she has responsibilities assigned to her during the Festival, Becky always walks the entire mile and a half taking notes and giving positive and constructive feedback to assist the staff. Each day of the Festival, Becky visits the Communication Director to check on her and to see if there is anything that needs to be done. You can count on her to have a smile on her face and her trademark hat on her head.

Becky's impact on the Festival is meaningful and long-lasting due in large part to the relationships she has developed and fostered throughout the years with local government leaders, prominent business people, and charitable foundation board members. Her contacts have proven to be invaluable over the years in promoting the Festival. Without her leadership and the countless number of hours she volunteers, the Festival surely would not be experiencing its current level of success. She is a go-to person for newer Board and staff members for her institutional knowledge about the Festival's history and growth.

Becky was a driving force and instrumental in the transition of the Festival from an all volunteer staff to a permanent paid staff of 10 and a temporary staff of almost 250. Although volunteers are an essential part of the Festival that help it remain financially viable, without her presence and support it most assuredly would never have attained the world class status it now enjoys. Becky has the Festival and its guests' best interests at heart and she demonstrates a deep understanding of how the Festival operates. She continues to motivate and inspire, not only her fellow board members, but our staff as well.