

Learn The Significance Of The "Friend of Exchange" Award **Given Out By The Exchange Club of Macon**

"Friend of Exchange" was developed and implemented several years ago as a way to say "Thank You" to those companies and individuals in our community that support our efforts - fund raising (Golf Tournament, Clay Shoot, raffles, meeting agendas, sponsors, donors, etc.), Programs of Service, involved in CAP, etc. It is also a way for us to increase our community presence and image as we also do through Facebook, our web site, and other areas of social media. Before COVID impacted our "norm", we were recognizing "Friend of Exchange" monthly - now it comes a little less frequently.

June O'Neal was also the recipient for our "Book of Golden Deeds" Award in the late '90's for her work with youth in our community. At one point in time the media labeled her as the "Mother Teresa of Middle Georgia". Her work in Middle Georgia and the charitable activities, the lives she has touched, and the life she has led would normally take 3 lifetimes to complete.

One example: At the beginning of the pandemic, the Board of Education donated space for her activities in the Mentors Project for office and space for her "food pantry". COVID caused closure of the BOE and June moved her space to her home and has been operating the project and "food pantry" from that location to dated from the pandemic onset. She involved several local churches, businesses, and individuals for support in the way of volunteers, trash removal, food, and technical support to keep her team of Mentors in contact with the 500 plus youth under the Mentors Project.

Sent from my iPad

Ronald Raleigh