

34 Pleasant Hill Avenue
Mattapan MA 02126
April 10, 2011

Vargas & Vargas Insurance
Boston's Best Neighbor Award-2011
1133 Washington St.
Dorchester MA 02124

Dear Sirs,

I would like to nominate a very deserving candidate, D. Michael Skillin, for the Boston's Best Neighbor Award. He has a long history of serving his church, his community and his neighbors, mostly without fanfare or reward, and is a shining example of selflessness, dedication and service.

Mike has been a steadfast volunteer and worker for St. Gregory's Church. He ran the CYO basketball program and coached the "travel team" for 25 years. He also ran the "clinic" basketball league for almost 30 years, teaching 5-10 year-old kids the basics of basketball. He has been an active member of the parish, always available to help "set up" or "take down" the hall for multitudes of events, including Bingo, and soliciting donations for- and running- the parish cookout for many years. He's been a member of the Parish Council for 8 years and an usher for 25 years. He's also a past chair of the St. Gregory School Advisory Board.

Would there be a Lower Mills Civic Association if not for Mike Skillin? He has served as president of the Civic Association for over 30 years, with all of the general meetings, executive board meetings, and behind-the-scenes work that that entails. His only hiatus was when he was threatened with a lawsuit that evolved from his civic association efforts in behalf of the neighborhood, and the association was essentially inactive during his absence. He's also given his time to the youth of the community, as a former coach in the All Dorchester Soccer League and Cedar Grove Little League.

On an individual level, Mike will help anyone in need if he can, and has taught his children to do the same. For example, when he learned about an elderly woman on his street through his sons who delivered her paper, he began, with them, taking out her trash, raking her leaves, mowing the lawn, shoveling snow, etc. He drove her to the grocery store on a regular basis, then started doing her shopping for her as she grew older. She is now in her late 90's, and for the last few years he has been making her dinner and going every night to feed her and make sure that she's all right, including arranging for her medical care when needed.

I cannot imagine anyone more giving of his time and energy to others than Mike Skillin, who has done all of the above and more while raising a family of five children with his wife Bobbi. I'm sure that these examples of his dedication and service are just a small sample, the "tip of the iceberg," so to speak. I am hoping that they illustrate a person who is truly deserving of consideration for Boston's Best Neighbor.

Sincerely,

David Mabel