



County Extension Director Becky Jordi presents a check to the Board of County Commissioners, representing the dollar value of volunteer service hours. County Extension staff and volunteers join her. Photo by Sabrina Robertson

## Extension volunteer hours worth \$200K

*For the Record*

On behalf of Nassau County Extension volunteers, Extension Director Rebecca L. Jordi presented a check for more than \$200,000 to the Nassau County Board of County Commissioners Feb. 17.

The symbolic check represented the dollar value associated with the hours of volunteer service in all four program areas of Nassau County Extension: Agriculture, Family and Consumer Sciences, 4-H and Horticulture, during 2015. More than 9,300 volunteer hours were contributed.

Jordi expressed appreciation to the volunteers who have decided to serve the to help improve the quality of life in Nassau County.

The volunteers help guide

children through the 4-H programs, families through the Family and Consumer Service programs, small businesses and farmers through the Agriculture program services and homeowners with landscaping concerns and horticulture interests.

Extension staff works very closely with volunteers and encourages participation so they can extend the services to more citizens in Nassau.

Since 2011, the equivalent value of volunteer hours has increased significantly – nearly 90 percent. The actual number of volunteer hours in 2015 represents a 61 percent increase over 2011.

“We are so grateful to our volunteers,” said Jordi. “They provide invaluable service to our community and are great ambassadors for Nassau County. Nassau

County Extension has won many awards, on both state and national levels. Both Extension staff and Nassau Extension volunteers are to be commended for providing the type of service to local residents – any community would be proud. We are so grateful of all of them.”

Commissioner Danny Leeper joined Ms. Jordi at the podium to receive the check and expressed the BOCC’s appreciation for the people providing volunteer service to Jordi (Extension director/Horticulture), Meg McAlpine (Family and Consumer Sciences), Margaret Johnson and Kristen Poppell (4-H/Youth) and Luke Harlow (Agriculture and Natural Resources).

Leeper also recently recognized members of Nassau Extension’s Master

Gardeners who earned the Team Award from the Florida Master Gardener program. The award recognizes collaborative efforts to support Extension programs.

Jordi nominated the group that maintains the Fruit Demonstration Garden in Yulee. The Team Award represented a new category in the Florida Master Gardener Award of Excellence recognition program.

Demonstration Garden team members include Elaine Roblez, Elizabeth Smith, Georgiann Leahy, Kay Stephens, Susan Bell, Janet Barnes, Claudia Witcher, Karen Mitt and Joseph Smith.

For more information about the Nassau County Extension Service’s programs, visit <http://nassau.ifas.ufl.edu/index.html> or call 904-530-6351.