



Thank God for UBA Heroes

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UBA Executive Director, Tom Billings

As I was growing up, my heroes were bigger than life characters who lived in ways I could only dream about. Some had exotic names - Flash, Green Lantern, the Atom, Aquaman, Batman, Superman and Kimosabe (a.k.a., the Lone Ranger). All wore costumes. Most wore masks. Some lived in books; others lived on the big screen. Most of my heroes co-mingled with the dust under my bed which is where I kept my prized comic book collection.

As I matured, my definition of hero changed. I've learned that heroes are ordinary people who do extraordinary things . . . sometimes they do it only once, like "Sully" Sullenberger, the pilot who safely landed US Airways Flight 1549 on the Hudson and saved 155 souls. A few do extraordinary things for an extended time, like the leadership President Abraham Lincoln provided our country during the Civil War. Some, like Mother Theresa, are heroes for their lifetime of service.

UBA has heroes, too. Let me mention a few.

There's the Adam family: Fred, Lynette and their son Biff. Collectively they have served on just about every board and/or committee in UBA life. Lynette has served in some volunteer capacity in UBA for 43 years. Currently, Lynette is chairman of the board of the Mission Centers of Houston (formerly the Baptist Mission Center). Fred is on the board of Trinity Pines Conference Center. For thirteen years Biff has served as the chair or co-chair of the UBA Golf Tournament which has raised over \$300,000 for the Center for Counseling and the Baptist Mission Center. Thanks, friends. We owe you so much.

There's Ron and Joanne Holt. Come to the UBA office during the week and there's a good chance you will find Ron and Joanne tucked away in a small room in the financial suite writing checks, reconciling statements, and making sure our bills are paid on time. The Holts have served in this capacity as volunteers for seventeen years! Bless you, both.

The Mission Centers of Houston could not survive without volunteers. Ginger Smith keeps close watch on the volunteer hours and honors MCH volunteers each year at a banquet. It's a wonderful event made possible each year by Second Baptist Church. In 2008, 119 folks volunteered 25,000 hours of their time at an estimated value of a quarter of a million dollars to our mission centers. These folks are heroes!

I wish I had space to mention all the folks who give of themselves so freely to advance the mission of UBA and the cause of Christ in our city, like the wonderful volunteers who have helped build the 1,000 seat worship center at Trinity Pines Conference Center, the folks who serve on the boards of our subsidiary corporations, the leaders on our Associational Leadership Council. I could easily go on and on.

Will Rogers said, we can't all be heroes, because somebody has to sit on the curb and clap as they go by. That's my role, clapping loud and long, saying thank you.