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## Brendan Rafferty Lauded for Community Service

Readers repeatedly suggested to Patch that resident Brendan Rafferty deserved the title of Grayslake's 'Person of the Year.'

Posted by [Angela Sykora](#) (Editor) , January 03, 2013 at 10:05 PM

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When Patch asked readers last month who they believed deserved the title of for 2012, one name kept coming up—Brendan Rafferty.

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"I choose Brendan Rafferty for his tireless work for the kids in our community. His unwavering support of the skate park, the 100's of Easter baskets made for underprivileged children and the Ugly Sweater contest to raise toys for Toys for Tots. This young man is truly amazing!" posted Leslie Kaiser.

"Living over 600 miles away I still see and hear about the great things Brendan Rafferty has done, and continues to do, for the community! He seems to have a knack for finding fun ways for the adults to give back to the youth while still enjoying themselves in the process!! I'm sure there are many worthy candidates that deserve equal praise, however, I fully support Brendan this year!!" posted Mike Bond.

"Brendan is a clear leader in terms of civic and community involvement. I have had the pleasure of working with him on multiple occasions, and have found no equal in terms of effort and genuine concern for the cause at hand," posted Eddie Trask.

When he's not working at the family business, Rudolph's Furniture, Rafferty invests time into organizing community events and fundraisers, from the Ugly Sweater Contest at The Vine for Toys for Tots to the Easter Bunny Bar Hop and Crawl for the Kids.

Rafferty also played an integral part in raising funds to improve the Daniel Barry Memorial Skate Park for the enjoyment of local youths.

### Give a little. Get a lot.

Pitching in the help the community doesn't have to take a lot of time, Rafferty told Patch.

"It's not really that hard if everybody gives a little effort," he said.

Volunteering isn't a competition, either, said Rafferty, noting that in Grayslake, residents enjoy working together for the greater good, which also makes it fun.

"I like the camaraderie. Everybody supports everybody. We're on the same level."

Rafferty said he is committed to community service because it gives him an opportunity to give back. It's an example his father, Tim Rafferty, instilled in him, he said.

One of the efforts Rafferty holds dearest is improving the skate park. As a skating enthusiast himself, Rafferty said he wished he had a safe, designated place to hone his skills and have fun when he was growing up.

For the past nine years, Rafferty has organized the Grayslake Skate Contest, a competition that raises funds to improve and maintain the skate park.

Rafferty said he feels honored to have his name suggested as Grayslake's "Person of the Year" along with Mike Pruitt, owner of The Vine; Joyce Campbell, local insurance agent and founder of the Oasis youth center; Greg Koepfen, a Grayslake fire commissioner who also serves as president of the Lake County Farm Bureau; and State Sen. Melinda Bush.

"I am honored to even be considered in this line up of great people. Thank you all for the kind words," posted Rafferty in the comments of "Who is Grayslake's Person of the Year?" story.

"I am even more blessed to live in such a great community where people are willing to be unselfish and give back. We all are so lucky to have people like Mike, Joyce and Greg. You are all winners and inspiration in my book. I would also like to take this moment to thank all the people that come out and support our events. It is you that make it all possible, not just on person. I am proud to call Grayslake my home and look forward to working together with you all to keep giving back to our wonderful community."

Who is Grayslake's Person of the Year?

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**Joyce Campbell** January 03, 2013 at 04:14 PM  
Congratulations to a very worthy recipient!!!! Keep up the good work Brendan! GRAYSLAKE is a better place because of YOU!  
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**Rich** January 03, 2013 at 04:40 PM  
It is good to see a positive, uplifting story about an all around good guy like Brendan! I participate in all of your events. Keep up the good work. And stuff, why do you let the Tea Party leader spill his negative stuff in your blog section. His dislike of same sex marriage, his desire for more large clip guns and his anti-Obamacare nonsense is just pain nonsense!  
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**Eileen Falson** January 03, 2013 at 04:59 PM  
Congratulations Brendan thank you for all you do and for being such a great role model for our youngsters.  
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**Sean Ulbert** January 03, 2013 at 06:07 PM  
Congratulations! cousin Brendan. Well deserved. Your family store "Rudolph's" I believe was named after my grandpa, Charles Rudolph Ulbert. I am proud to call you cousin, cousin. Keep up your great service. Sincerely, seanulbert@gmail.com  
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**Angela Sykora (Editor)** January 03, 2013 at 07:51 PM  
Hi Rich. Patch affords anyone the opportunity to post a blog, so long as they agree to the Terms of Use.  
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**Tim Rafferty** January 03, 2013 at 08:22 PM  
Rudolph's Furniture is named after Irving Rudolph, Brendan's grandfather's uncle.  
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**Sean Ulbert** January 04, 2013 at 11:39 PM  
Hi cousin Tim, I don't think we ever meet. Do you go to the Rafferty Annual picnics? Thank you for the correction. Is "Rudolph" Irving's last name or middle name? You may email your response to keep it private. seanulbert@gmail.com  
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**kathleen** January 10, 2013 at 12:20 AM  
Given all of the work that he has done to support the kids in the community, I have always thought of Brendan as "Mr. Grayslake." This is overdue recognition. Congrats, Brendan!!!  
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