

**2016 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR
DEREK PETERS**

The Citizen of the Year award is presented to an individual who has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to the community and has made significant contributions to the vibrancy and strength of the Greater Rochester area. I am pleased and honored to announce that the 2016 Citizen of the Year is **Derek Peters.**

Derek was born in Dover and raised in Rochester, NH. He is a Spaulding High School graduate and began his career as a Rochester firefighter the year after graduation. Derek spent the next 26 years with the department, becoming shift captain in 1995, assistant chief in 2005, and retiring in 2008. It was towards the end of his years as a firefighter and into his retirement that his second career began- giving back to the community.

Over the years, it has been said “*What hasn’t Derek done?*” opposed to “*What has he done?*” Derek has donated not only financially to many organizations but has also given *thousands* of hours of his time to serving those in need. He has served on the Board of Directors for The Homemakers Health Services and YMCA of Strafford County. He served on the Rochester Planning Board from 2009-2014, serving as Vice-Chair from 2013-2014. Derek currently sits on the Board of Directors for the Rochester Chamber of Commerce and Rochester Rotary Club, serving as Rotary Club President from July, 2014 – June, 2015. He is also a current Rochester Police Commissioner having recently been elected to a second term. He is active with Bridging the Gaps Coalition, and brought the End 68 Hours of Hunger Program to Rochester in 2015 which serves more than 100 children each week that do not have a sufficient amount of food or are missing meals entirely over the weekends.

Derek has also been instrumental in the building of Howie's Field of Dreams, a Bambino Buddy Ball field that was built at Roger Allen Park in Rochester in memory of Howie Seckendorf where young players ages 5-20 with physical and/or mental challenges can enjoy playing the game of baseball. Derek built the Club House at the field donating 100% of the labor and materials and recruited others to volunteer and donate their labor.

He has also volunteered for a number of years at the Homeless Center for Strafford County performing various renovations and repairs and securing monetary and material donations for the work. Derek also secured donations from Lowe's to have a new kitchen installed that the shelter was in dire need of at no cost to the organization.

In 2012, Derek and dozens of other volunteers from all over came together for a playground build to benefit the Monarch School of New England in Rochester, a day school serving students with

significant disabilities ages 5-21. Derek not only helped to install the new playground equipment but also built the beautiful gazebo that is standing there today and provided the staging needed by others for subsequent build days.

Derek's passion for giving back has also taken him outside of the United States. In 2015, Derek traveled to Mexico at 50% of his own expense as part of a Rochester Rotary Club project. Their travels took them to the Tepehua Community Center where a new maternity clinic is being built. Because of Derek's contributions, he was bestowed the highest honor given by Rotary by being named a Paul Harris Fellow in 2012, which recognizes individuals who have contributed or have had contributions made in their name of \$1,000 to the Rotary Foundation.

In 2016, Derek began his term as a Director for the Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce. Derek is always one to be counted on to assist at an event, sell raffle tickets, or even roll up his sleeves and rev up his chainsaw as he did when he volunteered with others to clean up the Welcome to Rochester highway sign adjacent to the Spaulding Turnpike.

Derek resides in Rochester with his wife Nancy of 33 years. He has two children, Nicholas and Samantha. When he is not giving his time to various charities and organizations, Derek enjoys spending his time golfing, watching the Bruins, and spending time with his family.