



OVERVIEW

Charles “Chase” Smith was a 4th generation Floridian, born and raised in Wauchula, Florida. He had a passion for public service and serving his community, which began during his high school career. Upon graduating Hardee High School, Chase ran for the Wauchula City Council in 1990 when he was 18 years old, only to lose by 24 votes. Undeterred, Chase ran again in 1992 and was elected - defeating two challengers and, more importantly, defeating the odds by becoming the youngest elected official in Hardee County history.

Chase served on the Wauchula City Council for three, four-year terms helping to build his hometown into a better place. He was able to balance the scale of serving as the voice for the next generation of citizens while still being able to understand and relate to the concerns and issues of the entire city population. During his service on the Wauchula City Council, Chase also represented his region and the state by serving on the boards of directors of the Ridge League of Cities (a seven county, 26-city association of city governments) and the Florida League of Cities. Chase rose to the office of President while serving on the Ridge League of Cities. He also continued his experience in local government by serving on the Board of Directors of the Central Florida Regional Planning Council, the Hardee County Family YMCA and other organizations.

In February 2011, Orange County Mayor Teresa Jacobs extended an invitation to Chase to join her administration as Aide for Constituent Relations and Outreach. After arriving at Mayor Jacobs’ office, Chase rapidly developed the reputation for learning the intricacies of a large government organization very quickly and gaining the understanding of the proper avenues through which to address and resolve constituent’s problems. Chase excelled so much in his abilities to tackle tough, constituent issues, that Mayor Jacobs and senior administration pegged him to be Orange County’s first Ombudsman in August 2011. Mayor Jacobs chose Chase for this role due to his quick learning and understanding of County government, departments and divisions and for his compassionate, patient and objective ability to address difficult matters with, at times, frustrated citizens.

Chase devoted his life to public service and bettering his community. On August 28, 2013, Chase lost his battle to cancer. In honoring his legacy, we have created the Charles T. Smith Community Service Award.

Through the Charles T. Smith Community Service Award, outstanding high school juniors or seniors, who show dedication toward making a positive impact in their community through service and volunteerism, will be recognized and awarded a monetary scholarship. Award recipients will demonstrate engagement and participation in activities or projects that benefit our neighbors and our Orange County community.

AWARD CRITERIA

(Criteria must be confirmed and endorsed by a school guidance counselor)

- High School Senior with a minimum 3.0 WGPA
- Minimum of 75 Community Service Hours accumulated from ninth grade through twelfth grade
- Share a meaningful volunteer experience that you’ve participated in that has positively impacted our community.
- Submit to Orange County by Friday, April 3rd at 5:00 pm

AWARD RECIPIENT

- Mayor to announce Award Recipient in May





APPLICATION
Please print legibly.

APPLICANT'S INFORMATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: () – Email: _____

High School: _____

Check One: Junior Senior WGPA: _____ Community Service Hours: _____

ESSAY

Please attach an essay telling about “a meaningful volunteer experience that you’ve participated in that has positively impacted our community” according to the following guidelines:

- Typed and single-line spaced
- Minimum of 250 words
- Maximum 500 words

DIRECTIONS

This application cover sheet along with your essay must be submitted to your high school Guidance Counselor for review and verification no later than Thursday, April 2nd at 12:00 pm. You will want to meet with your Guidance Counselor in advance to explain what you are doing and how you will need her/his assistance.

GUIDANCE COUNSELOR'S CONFIRMATION & ENDORSEMENT

NAME

Signature

TELEPHONE

EMAIL

DATE: _____

Counselor, please fax application & essay to Orange County Neighborhood Preservation & Revitalization Division at (407) 836-2901 or email to: OCNeighborhoods@ocfl.net, no later than Friday, April 3rd by 5:00pm. Call Lavon Williams at (407) 836-5614, if you have and questions and to confirm receipt of this application.