



## **VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH**

**May 2010**

**James Koenig**

**Douglas County Parks & Recreation**



**How long have you lived here in Douglas County?**

I have lived in Douglas County since August 1997.

**Town of residence**

Gardnerville, Nevada

**Where did you live before moving here to Douglas County?**

I moved here from Texas.

**Family**

I am married to Sonya Koenig and have 4 children (Jon, Adam, Jennifer and Amy) and 4 stepchildren (Briana, Brian, Christian & Steven).

**Are you currently working or retired?**

Working full time for China Springs Youth Camp/Aurora Pines Girl's Facility as a Juvenile Counselor

**If retired, former profession / If still working, current profession?**

I retired as a Captain of Corrections for the Texas State Department of Corrections.

**How long have you been a volunteer?**

Most all of my life, but 12 years in Douglas County.

**Where do you currently volunteer?**

Douglas County Parks & Recreation, as well as several local charitable organizations

**What are your volunteer duties?**

I have volunteered as a coach for the Douglas County Youth Sports for over 12 years. I have also had the privilege to volunteer as a sports official for the Special Olympics. Additionally, during Christmas season, I play Santa Claus for charitable organizations and for children of all ages, including the elderly residential care centers. I also volunteer for C.C. Meneley Elementary School to teach them to design and build backgrounds and props for school plays. I also actively participate in the Operation Christmas Child Program which is a Billy Graham outreach ministry which donates shoe boxes containing toys and general hygienic necessities for children in third world countries.

**How much time do you volunteer per month?**

It really varies throughout the year, with the majority of my volunteer time around the holidays.

**Why and how did you become a volunteer?**

I started as a teenager helping out with youth sports programs and umpiring for little league, etc. I love sports and I have a great deal of fun coaching and officiating. I came from a very small community in Texas where the whole community just helped each other out. My family has always been heavily involved with school activities and community events. I learned to give back to the community at an early age.

**Favorite aspects of volunteering?**

I think the most memorable time volunteering would have to be the Special Olympics. It was very rewarding and also humbling to see how much effort those children and adults put forth to accomplish their goals. I'll never forget it and encourage everyone to find a way to help out the Special Olympics.

**What would you say to others to encourage others to volunteer?**

There is nothing better than seeing the smile on children's faces when they learn how to serve the ball over the net, score a basket for the first time, or when they see Santa handing them a gift! It warms my heart, and I think that the world is a better place when people show love and give of themselves. Sometimes the smallest of gestures can go a long way to making someone feel good about themselves!

**A.V.I.D. IS A NON-PROFIT GROUP THAT PROMOTES, MAINTAINS AND SUPPORTS VOLUNTEERISM IN DOUGLAS COUNTY AND PROVIDES AVENUES FOR RECOGNITION AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF VOLUNTEERS.**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT A.V.I.D. AT : 775-783-6450 OR WRITE: AVID P.O. Box 1057, MINDEN NV 89423**