

# 2016 Trophy Club Citizen of the Year

#21

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Date \* Friday, April 14, 2017

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Youth or Adult nomination (youth is 18 or younger): \* Adult

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Age (for youth nominees only):

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How long has the nominee lived in Trophy Club? \* 5.5 years

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Name \* Nicole Arata

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Address \*  [Redacted]

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Phone Number \* [Redacted]

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Email \* [Redacted]

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Name \* Nancy Miley

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Address  [Redacted]

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Phone Number \* [Redacted]

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[Redacted] [Redacted]


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Please explain the reason for nomination (explanation may be attached below): \* See Attached.

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## Citizen of the Year Nomination

Most people know Nicole Arata as a wife and mother of five, but I know her as the “Volunteer Queen”. I met Nicole 5 years ago when my family move to Trophy Club. What struck me most about her is how she took me under her wing and introduced me to many of her friends so that I would feel welcome. What I have learned about Nicole since then is that she does this with everyone she meets. She goes out of her way to make sure new residents of Trophy Club feel welcome.

2016 was a busy year for Nicole. For the previous three years, Nicole had been asking the principal at Beck Elementary School to allow her to facilitate a school sponsored fundraiser and 2016 was the year it finally happened. She organized a committee and they called the event the Bulldog Blitz. It consisted of several obstacle courses for the students to complete. Because this was the first year of the event, there was no budget to purchase prizes and t-shirts. So, Nicole came up with the idea to pre-sell yard signs that would be displayed along the course. She was able to raise over \$4,500 just in yard signs to help with the start-up budget. Once all donations were given, the event raised over \$50,000 that went directly to Beck Elementary School.

Nicole also volunteered to compile the yearbook at Beck Elementary. She spent hundreds of hours putting the yearbook together. She was always at the school as well as the many school events taking pictures. It was extremely important to her to get as many of the 800 kids in the yearbook. In the end, the yearbook looked amazing. Nicole took the extra effort to be sure that every child had the opportunity to purchase a yearbook, as busy parents may overlook notices or ordering deadlines. She sent a personalized flyer home to every student who had not purchased a yearbook by the deadline, and because of this extra effort she discovered that some families accidentally ordered multiple times, so they were able to receive a refund instead of owning multiple copies. The yearbook orders have increased each year since Nicole has taken on the project.

Nicole ran the auction at Medlin Middle School which raised almost \$9,000 for the Medlin PTA. Before Nicole, the Medlin auction raised a little more than half of that amount. Nicole was instrumental in seeking donations from the many businesses of Trophy Club and our surrounding cities of Roanoke, Southlake, and Grapevine. She also mailed over 100 letters to area businesses seeking donations.

One of Nicole’s daughter’s dances for the Byron Nelson Bobcat Dazzlers which hosts an annual Craft Show as the organization’s fundraiser. I remember the day Nicole called me and said, “You are never going to believe this but I was just asked to put on a silent auction for the Craft

Show which is in 2 weeks.”. Of course, she sprang into action and she was able to help raise \$1,000 for the Dazzlers, which was great considering how little time she had to prepare.

One of Nicole’s daughter’s is an athletic trainer at Byron Nelson High School. There had been some miscommunication about the trainers getting meals at the football games, so Nicole worked with the Football Booster Club to be sure the trainers were also fed. I’m not sure how much everyone knows about the Byron Nelson football games, but the student trainers typically do not arrive back to school until after 11:00 PM. (They leave for the games at 3:30.) When she heard that meals were not being provided to the 9<sup>th</sup> grade football players, she jumped into action again and the 9<sup>th</sup> grade players were fed, too.

Nicole is also a member of Trophy Club’s Back the Blue committee. She played a big role in tying blue ribbons around the trees in Trophy Club, as well as removing the old and faded ones. She was responsible for the big, blue wreaths that you see hanging at the entrance of Trophy Lake Drive.

Nicole is also on Trophy Club’s Stars and Stripes Committee. She was a flag captain for her street and she and her daughters planted flags on several other routes as well. You may even remember her daughter being featured on the news.

Nicole volunteers at Vacation Bible School every summer. Not only does she volunteer at the Trophy Club churches, but she also volunteers at her home church, St. Francis of Assisi in Grapevine.

Nicole also volunteers with TCRYBA. One day while her son was playing baseball at Indy East, she was talking with the President of the association who happened to mention that he wanted to sell sno cones during the baseball games and tournaments. Nicole mentioned to him that she has a sno cone machine and that she would be willing to volunteer her time to sell sno cones for the baseball association. Since she was going to be at Indy Ballpark most weekends, she thought she may as well make herself useful and help raise money for the local baseball program. If you have not tasted on of her sno cones, be sure to stop by the concession stand this baseball season! Additionally, she would also operate the concession stand when the coaches weren’t available.

Another thing that stands out about Nicole is that she is always trying to help the Medlin and Byron students get the service hours that they may need. Often when there is an event in town or at one of the schools, she will find a way to reach out to the students who need service hours and get them working the event.

Finally, an important characteristic about Nicole is that she never seeks recognition or accolades for the wonderful things she is doing or has done. You will never see her on social media or in the lime light. She is a behind the scenes person, which I feel makes her even more deserving of this great honor. Thank you for considering Nicole, a person that I am honored to call my friend as well as an exemplary citizen of Trophy Club, for Citizen of the Year.