

## St. Petersburg couple selected as a presidential Point of Light

[CITY Edition]

St. Petersburg Times - St. Petersburg, Fla.

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Date: Jan 1, 1992

Start Page: 3.3.1

Section: LARGO-SEMINOLE TIMES; CLEARWATER TIMES; CITY TIMES

Text Word Count: 419

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### Document Text

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A local couple may have finished 1991 uneventfully, but they'll begin 1992 as the nation's 656th "point of light."

Today, President Bush will recognize Susan and Terry Brimmer as a Daily Point of Light for their efforts as volunteers for Straight Inc., a St. Petersburg-based adolescent drug and alcohol program, the White House has announced.

"We're really excited," Susan Brimmer said Tuesday. "The best part is it brings some attention to Straight."

The Brimmers, of 1542 86th Ave. N, became involved with Straight in 1987 when their son became a client of the program. When their son graduated from Straight, the Brimmers continued to volunteer.

"Two of our boys are alive and well today because of Straight," Mrs. Brimmer said, referring to her son and another young man the Brimmers met through Straight. They consider him a family member.

Founded 13 years ago, Straight nationally operates six treatment centers that use confrontational rap sessions and peer-pressure therapy to try to free adolescents from drug dependency. A seventh treatment center, in Dallas, closed this fall.

The Brimmers work in Straight's parent intake program, where they help parents enroll their children and help parents adjust to the shock of having a child with a drug dependency. And they share their own experiences with other parents during "parent weekends," usually four a year.

The Brimmers were nominated for the award by the St. Petersburg Straight chapter, said Carvel Lewis, staff assistant for the White House's Office of National Service. Susan Brimmer works at Val-Pak, a direct mail company in St. Petersburg. Terry Brimmer is a certified public accountant in Tampa.

Lewis said the service office looks for award recipients who are involved in volunteer work that others can emulate. They were chosen for today because the president wanted to focus on drug and alcohol abuse, and drunken driving, for the New Year's holiday.

"We like to highlight for national recognition the best that Americans are doing, and those things that are most easily replicated," Lewis said.

The White House recognizes one Point of Light each day, Lewis said. The Brimmers will be the 656th Point of Light, an honor that may enable them to meet the president if he comes to the area. They also will receive a personal letter from the president.

In September, the 575 points of light who had been recognized by then were invited to Walt Disney World in Orlando to meet with Bush. The Brimmers would be invited to any similar celebration in the future, Lewis said.

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### Abstract (Document Summary)

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