



Illinois Park & Recreation Foundation
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Media Release

For Immediate Release

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Longtime IPRA Member Establishes Scholarship Fund

La Grange – John Wilson’s personal and professional commitment to the Illinois Park & Recreation Association (IPRA), Illinois Park and Recreation Foundation (IPRF) and South Suburban Park & Recreation Professional Association (SSPRPA) spans several decades, not only as a member but as a volunteer in several leadership positions, including the IAPD/IPRA Conference Committee and Exhibits Committee, a leadership role in the IPRA Administration and Finance Section Board, and serving as a board member of the IPRF. The Wilson family’s conviction to public service is unmistakable with their \$10,000 investment funding the IPRF’s Wilson Family Public Servant Fund. The fund establishes a scholarship for young professionals (those that have worked full time in the park & recreation profession eight years or less), who are current members of the South Suburban Park & Recreation Professional Association (SSPRPA) and IPRA.

The Wilson Family Public Servant Fund will fund, on an annual basis, provided there are approved scholarships that meet and exceed the review process and intended criteria of the fund, the following educational opportunities:

- Two (2) full delegate registrations to the IPRA Supervisor Symposium
- One (1) full delegate registration to the annual IAPD/IPRA Annual Conference

All scholarship applications for the Wilson Family Public Servant Fund will follow the timelines, rules and regulations of the IPRF.

‘Barb and I were planning this donation and the creation of the Wilson Family Public Servant Fund for some time. The scholarship fund honors the Wilson Family; provides a thank you to the South Suburban Park & Recreation Professional Association for all of the career opportunities the organization provided me; and allows me to set an example and encourage other retirees and active professionals that it’s OK to donate to the Illinois Park & Recreation Foundation, so that the next generation of professionals might have an alternate financial choice to fund various educational opportunities for their growth.’ – John Wilson.

‘The Wilson family have had multiple generations of public servants and we at IPRF are so grateful for the generosity of the Wilson family as they create this new Wilson Family Public Servant Fund, a scholarship program for park and recreation professionals who are early in their careers pursuing ongoing professional education. This collaboration between IPRF, the South Suburban Park and Recreation Professional Association

and the Wilson family will help us to provide scholarships to professionals and honor the Wilson family for years into the future. '– Debbie Trueblood, Executive Director, IPRA and IPRF.

The mission of the Illinois Park & Recreation Foundation is to serve as the philanthropic and support organization of the Illinois Park and Recreation Association (IPRA) and its members, committed to the investment in today's students and professionals within the Illinois park and recreation industry, by promoting and supporting the continuing education and professional development of its members and development of future leaders within the Association.

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