



JIMMY BESSON 2013 GULF COAST HUMANITARIAN AWARD

Jimmy Besson is synonymous with St. Bernard Parish, Jimmy's Kids, and Special Olympics. Jimmy was born with Cerebral Palsy which has helped him open doors with and for individuals he has continued to work with. He describes his disability as a skill he has developed over the years to help make himself more sellable and believes people are born with the innate ability to sell themselves in their lives to better their quality of life. Jimmy sees his responsibility is to provide wholesome leisure time programs and facilities for the physically and mentally challenged individuals of St. Bernard Parish.

VOLUNTEERISM

- » Jimmy's Kids Inc.
- » Volunteers of America-taught billiards.
- » St. Rita's Nursing Home.
- » Fernandez Nursing Home
- » St. Ann's Nursing Home
- » St. Margrets Nursing Home
- » Second Harvest Food Bank
- » St. Bernard Community Center-Doctors visits
- » St. Bernard Tourist Commission-photography
- » The St. Bernard Red Cup-photography
- » Crawfish Festival-photography
- » Paws in the Park-photography
- » Oyster Festival
- » Archbishop Hannan High Shrimp Festival
- » St. Marks October Festival
- » St. Bernard Health Center
- » Chalmette High School-athletic events
- » Islenos Festival
- » Gladiators Parade
- » Irish, Italian, Islenos Parade"
- » Knights of Nemesis Parade.
- » Shangra La Parade
- » Little Rascals Parade
- » Arabi Bowling League-disabled bowling league
- » Cresent Bowling Alley-disabled bowling league
- » the Audubon Zoo
- » Aquarium of the Americas
- » New York- athletic games
- » Texas-athletic games
- » Disney World Orlando
- » Denver Colorado-skiing
- » Lights in Oaks-drive through lighting
- » Christmas party's-group
- » Birthday's Party-group
- » Gonzales Fishing Rodeo
- » Shrine Circus-group
- » O.L.P.S. Mass for Special Needs People
- » O.L.P.S. Tomato Festival
- » Volunteer Special
- » Gonzales Fishing Rodeo
- » Shrine Circus-group

EDUCATION

- » Chalmette High School graduate
- » Delgado Junior College associate degree

- » Nunez Community College associate degree
- » University of South Alabama degree
BS LS/TR REC.

SPORTS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- » 1987 Dallas-Fort Worth Texas CP games first place 1500, 3k, and 5k cycling time trials, bowling 2nd, club throw 1st, disc 2nd
- » 1987 MS Tour for Cure, single highest fundraiser in the history of the MS Tour for Cure in Louisiana
- » 1988 MS Tour for Cure Ambassador in the California MS Tour for Cure, first place prize for the most money raised for the Tour for Cure held in Louisiana
- » 1988 Dallas-Fort Worth Texas CP games first place 1500, 3k, and 5k cycling time trials bowling 2nd, club throw 1st, disc 2nd.
- » 1988 was trained at the New Orleans Saints training camp, David Dr. Trained by Russell Patronastro, strength and condition coach
- » 1988 implemented the first wheel chair bowling athletic team at Fazzio Bowling Alley in Chalmette 16 wheel chair user, plus ambulatory bowlers. First wheel chair athlete bowled his first bowling ball, and made a strike, Mark Hiene.
- » 1989 U.S.A. Olympic Festival in Oklahoma, 3k time trial U.S.A. Bronze Medal
- » 1989 the University Physician El Tour De Tucson, 'Bicycling in the Pursuit of a Cure', Arthritis Foundation, cycled a 113 miles in 7 hours
- » 1989 first disabled cyclist to ride a bike from Baton Rouge to the New Orleans Saints Super Dome accompanied by Mrs. Connie Mora, Saints head coach Jim Mora's wife
- » 1990 U.S.A. Championships held in New York qualifying meet to advance to the Europe Assen Holland World Championships, first place in 3k time trial, I was ranked number 2 in the U.S.A. in my cycling division
- » 1990 first place alpine skiing trail in Denver, Colorado, Winter Park Disabled Ski Program
- » 1990 World Championship in Europe, Assen Holland, placed 12th in the world of 4,000 athletes from 40 countries.