Tom Burgoyne honored with Tree at Samaritan House

Red maple symbols generosity, longivity and adaptability

"When I first got involved with this organization, I was not sure what to expect," said Tom Burgoyne, a former county sheriff and law enforcement officer who has dedicated his life to protecting and serving others. "But I quickly realized that the Samaritan House is a place of love, compassion and hope."

Burgoyne, who served as the county's sheriff from 2000 to 2008, said his time at the Samaritan House was a turning point in his life. "I've always been drawn to helping others," he said. "The people I met here taught me so much about community and how important it is to support one another."

The organization's mission is to provide shelter, food and support to people in need, and Burgoyne became a driving force behind its success. He also served as the organization's board president for several years.

"Today, I'm honored to be here to dedicate a red maple tree to the Samaritan House," Burgoyne said. "This tree is a symbol of our community's generosity and commitment to helping others."

The tree, which was planted in 2005, was chosen as a symbol of the organization's mission. "It represents the hope and growth that we strive for at the Samaritan House," Burgoyne said.

The ceremony was attended by members of the organization's board, staff and volunteers, as well as members of the community. Burgoyne was joined on stage by the organization's founder, who thanked him for his service.

"We are so grateful for Tom's dedication and commitment to the Samaritan House," said the founder. "He has been a true leader and a shining example of what it means to give back to our community."

Burgoyne's presence at the ceremony was a source of pride for the organization's staff and volunteers.

"It means everything to us to have someone like Tom Burgoyne as a champion for the Samaritan House," said another staff member.

Burgoyne ended his speech by encouraging others to get involved in the organization's mission.

"If you have a heart for helping others, I urge you to join us," he said. "Together, we can make a difference in the lives of so many people."