

Paul E Skidmore III Says Community Impact in Tampa Starts With Showing up Quietly

Paul E Skidmore III, a Tampa sales professional, says the real measure of local impact is what happens when nobody is keeping score.

Tampa, Florida Oct 26, 2026 ([IssueWire.com](https://www.issuewire.com)) - A Tampa Perspective on Giving Back

Paul E Skidmore III has lived in Hillsborough County his entire life. He grew up in Tampa, built a career there, and raises his kids there now. That history gives him a specific view of what it means to give back to a place: it is not a headline, it is a habit.

"You don't have to run a big organization to make a difference where you live," Skidmore said. "Sometimes it's just showing up for one family at Christmas, or one kid at school, over and over, year after year."

Help That Does Not Need a Name Attached

For several years, Skidmore has donated to the Salvation Army and to veterans' causes in the Tampa area. During the holidays, he has helped families directly, with food, presents, and cash, rather than through a formal program or a public campaign.

"I never tracked it, and I never asked for anything back," he said. "If a family has a better Christmas because somebody showed up, that's the whole point. The minute you start doing it for credit, it stops being about the people you're helping."

That distinction matters to him. Skidmore draws a line between generosity that is reported and generosity that is simply lived.

"A lot of people want recognition for doing the right thing," he said. "I'd rather the kid at school or the family down the street just know somebody cared, without me needing a plaque to prove it."

Why Local Still Matters in a Digital Economy

Skidmore built his career in sales after years working in bars across Tampa, where he learned to read people face to face before he ever worked a deal over the phone or online. That grounding shapes how he sees Hillsborough County now: as a place made of individual relationships, not just a market.

"Tampa has grown so much, and a lot of business happens at a distance now," he said. "But the county is still full of neighborhoods where people know each other. I think that's worth protecting, even as everything else moves faster."

He points to his own volunteer work at his kids' school as an example. It is small, local, and repeated, rather than one-time or public.

"I'm there because my kids are there, and because it's one more place I can be useful," Skidmore said. "You don't need a title to help out at a school. You just need to show up when they ask."

Raising the Next Generation in the Same County He Grew up In

Part of what drives Skidmore's local involvement is watching his own kids grow up in the same community that raised him. One of his children is autistic, and he has spent time learning more about autism so he can support his family and advocate where it is needed.

"Living here my whole life means I get to watch this county through my kids' eyes now, not just my own," he said. "That changes what you pay attention to. You start noticing what families actually need, not just what sounds good."

He said that perspective, more than any strategy, is what keeps him involved close to home instead of looking for recognition further afield.

"I'm not trying to build something with my name on it," Skidmore said. "I just want to leave this county a little better for the next family that needs a hand, the same way people helped mine."

About Paul E Skidmore III

[Paul E Skidmore III](#) works in sales and is based in Hillsborough County, Florida. Before moving into sales, he spent close to 15 years bartending across Tampa. He is a father who volunteers at his children's school, supports Salvation Army and veterans' causes, and has helped local families during the holidays for the past several years.

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