

YANNIS FLOROS LANDSCAPING GRANT

PURPOSE

The ***Yannis Floros Landscaping Grant (YFLG)*** is a philanthropic endeavor of Utopian Landscapes that started in 2009. Each year a deserving member of the community in which Utopian Landscapes operates will be selected to receive a year of complimentary landscape work. This work will include standard maintenance work on a property with minor enhancement work. Candidates for the ***YFLG*** may be nominated by any member of our community who would like to recognize a friend or neighbor who deserves a helping hand.

CRITERIA

The ***YFLG*** is not a conventional philanthropic gift or donation and it can not necessarily be awarded under the same criteria as one. Utopian Landscapes looks to help individuals or families who are considered deserving based upon personal hardships, financial or merit conditions depending on the situation. Anyone familiar with the program may nominate any community member who is facing exceptional hardships and could stand to use a helping hand. The annual winner of the ***YFLG*** is chosen from the nominees by a committee including the president, investors, and customers of Utopian Landscapes.

BACKGROUND

The ***YFLG*** is named in memory of Yannis Floros, the late uncle of Utopian Landscapes president, Nikos Floros Phelps. Yannis Floros, better known as Theos Yannis to his nephew, was a caring, loving, and a hardworking individual who with his big, warm, and genuine smile embraced everyone around him and never missed an opportunity to help the needy, contribute to a cause, or provide encouragement and advice. His own path to success as a businessman was a true rags-to-riches story. To some he was bigger than life and one who friends and family could always count on in time of need of any kind. In 1997, when Phelps, then 14, began landscaping to earn spending money in the summer, Theos Yannis saw the potential that could come from this (even before Phelps himself). He continued to encourage and inspire Phelps throughout high school, until he lost his battle with skin cancer in 2001 at the age of 65. To this day, his words and actions continue to influence the decisions and the path of Utopian Landscapes, LLC.

The ***YFLG*** was inspired by the actions of a client who had purchased Holiday Lighting services for a neighbor whose parents had lost their house to fire and whose daughter was chronically ill, in an effort to ease their burden during the holiday season.