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Volunteers are backbone behind Delray Beach's 100-foot Christmas tree

'There was a newspaper article about helping build the tree and I've been doing it ever since,' Chary Lynn says











By: Hollani Davis, Matthew Barnes

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DELRAY BEACH, Fla. — For 30 years, Delray Beach's famous 100-foot Christmas free has been a pivotal part of the city's success.

The over-the-top attraction brings people in from all over the state and even the globe. The volunteers who help put it together know that building a 10-story structure is no easy task—fluffing the branches, testing the lights and so much more.



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Mary "Mike" Williams shares her experience as a volunteer over the years for Delray Beach's Christmas tree

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For 30 years, those working behind the scenes have had a lot on their annual to-do lists.





Their job duties have changed over the years. These days, most of the tasks, keep them on solid ground.



Delray Beach Historical Society

Volunteers putting ornaments on Delray Beach Christmas Tree in previous years.

"I was a climber," Mary "Mike" Williams said. "They would pass it up to me. I would be up 10, 20 feet."

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Williams has been volunteering almost from the very beginning.

"This is my 19th year," she said.



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Jeff Maul shares how he enjoys working on the vintage toy train display set up inside the giant tree





"I had trains as a kid, so I kind of gravitated to it," he said. "Some of the trains that we have are older than I am."

The many people who give their time say the payback for their sweat equity is to see how much joy it brings.

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