

MARION COUNTY 2010 VOLUNTEER AWARDS

Each spring in April during National Volunteer Week the county recognizes volunteers for service during the previous year. Departments nominate volunteers from county programs, and a selection committee reviews and scores the nominations. This year's selection committee:

Melissa Gibler, HandsOn Mid-Willamette Valley

Michael Finlay, AC Gilbert's Discovery Village

Tammy McCammon, Salem-Keizer Education Foundation

JUDGE REX HARTLEY VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

The late Rex Hartley served as a county judge and commissioner for Marion County from 1951- 66. Judge Hartley was dedicated to involving citizens in the development of the county. The volunteer receiving the Judge Rex Hartley award is given an engraved plaque, and his or her name is added to the perpetual plaque displayed in the commissioners' reception area. This year's Rex Hartley Volunteer of the Year Award recipient is Douglas Simmons.



Doug Simmons poses with his Volunteer of the Year award.

Doug is retired from the Air Force and volunteers with Marion County Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES). MCARES members are ham radio operators organized within the American Radio Relay League. Members collectively volunteer their radio equipment and operating skills to assist with emergency communications when activated by the county's Emergency Manager.

As a strong advocate for ongoing training and certification so MCARES members meet the standards and practices set by FEMA, Doug trains members for competency in operating the Winlink digital system, used to send "text" radio communications. He leads by example and attended a train-the-trainer class for Winlink and set the standard for the unit to have all MCARES volunteers certified.

Doug's devotion of time and effort to the program and the volunteer members has been critical to maintaining the unit's readiness. He is described as the workhorse of the program, training and drilling and ensuring the unit's equipment is in good working order. He took the initiative to put the unit

on standby status upon notification of the Aumsville tornado and quickly dispatched necessary assistance to the Red Cross when requested.

Doug is a consistently reliable key member and leader of the MCARES unit and deserving of recognition for his contribution to the community and the county.

MARY PEARMINE OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER GROUP AWARD

This award is in honor of the late Mary Pearmine who served as commissioner for Marion County from 1991- 98. In addition to being the first woman commissioner, she was also a champion of volunteers and volunteer groups. This award is intended for those county affiliated groups with membership that consists of volunteers. This year the volunteers of the District Attorney's Victim Advocate Division are the recipient of the Mary Pearmine Outstanding Volunteer Group Award.

In addition to their regular cases, volunteer victim advocates faced an expanded workload as a result of changes in the law and logistical challenges in a new physical location during 2010.



House Bill 3508 required the District Attorney's office to find and notify hundreds of victims of old cases of the possibility of their offenders being released from prison early. Without the help of the volunteer advocates who shouldered more cases, pager shifts, phone calls, and court coverage, this requirement wouldn't have been successfully be completed.

Another law that passed this past year required the DA's office to notify ALL victims with an open case of new post conviction rights. The law became effective immediately. Again, the dedicated volunteers stepped up to another seemingly impossible task.

During the DA's office relocation from Courthouse Square to the Marion County Courthouse, volunteer advocates were on hand to ensure that the office was able to maintain consistent services to victims during the move.

The three-month Woodburn bombing trial last year involved three staff members, keeping at least two out of the office every day during the trial. Again, volunteers helped ensure continued

service to victims with the absence of staff members who were in court.

During the year, 45 volunteers donated nearly 25,000 hours, which is an average of 11 hours per week per volunteer. The work is extremely taxing and emotionally challenging, but victims' comments are the reward:

- "You people treated our family so fairly and with such respect."
- "I have felt like I could always call and get information. I have felt safer because of the info your office has given me."
- "Gracias. Thank you for supporting me and letting me know I'm worth a lot and that I shouldn't be afraid to stand up for myself because I matter."

PROGRAM AWARD

The program award is intended for those volunteers who display dedication and exemplary accomplishments within the division or program in which they volunteer. Volunteers in this category are recognized for their contribution to the customers or clientele the program serves and the betterment of the community. This year's recipient of the Program Award is the New Solutions Child and Adolescent Mentoring Program.

New Solutions Child and Adolescent Mentoring Program is a program of the Health Department and partners with the United Way-Helping Hands and Oregon Mentors to provide additional resources to its mentors. Mentors in this program provide encouragement, support, time and commitment to youth in mental health treatment at the Health Department.

In 2010, 15 mentors provided 657 hours of contact with 5 youths. Mentors attend 12 hours of training before being matched with a youth. At a bi-monthly support group and training workshop in



Left picture: Jon Mangis, Joey Elcano, Derrick Postell, Sr., and Joe Meeker represented the New Solutions Mentor Program at the awards ceremony.

Right picture: Mentor Program Coordinator, Leah Mangis and Derrick Postell, Sr. wait for the awards ceremony to start.

which guest speakers provide training on mentoring and relationship tips, mentors are able to learn from each other and reinforce their skills. At each meeting, mentors are given a specific item for their "mentoring tool bag." The items give them mentors ideas and resources for the mentoring relationship.

New Solutions mentors are creative, honest, have integrity and empathy and are committed to their youths. They are always thinking "outside the box" at the monthly Child and Family Team meetings with Health Department staff. Mentors provide support, encouragement and a voice for their youth at these meetings. The families, youths and the youths' care coordinators feel incredibly grateful to New Solutions mentors. The mentors are willing to go the extra mile or spend just a little extra time, if needed, with their teams or youths.

DIVISION AWARDS

This award honors the unique and meaningful work done within a division. Volunteers in this category are honored for their contribution not only to the county and community but also to their division or program. We are pleased to highlight the work accomplished each day in county departments and the community by the following award recipients and other volunteers just like them.

Lois DeGuire is a volunteer for Business Services. For the past four years, Lois has volunteered one to two days a week assisting the county volunteer services coordinator. She enters volunteer data into the county's database and updating and archiving records. Lois' amazing attention to detail and logical suggestions, observations and ideas have improved the volunteer documentation process and accuracy of the database.



Lois DeGuire (left) and Tracy Strahan (right) listen as Commissioner Patti Milne reads from their nominations.

Wellness approached Lois about entering recipes collected by the program for a healthy soup cookbook. She stepped up to help Wellness meet a publishing deadline. Proceeds from the cookbook were donated to the Women's Crisis Center. Lois also established and sorted a spreadsheet of health risk factors, actual results from county employees, so the data could be analyzed as part of

Wellness' Total Health Assessment effort. To complete both projects for Wellness required Lois to use critical thinking and judgment.

Employee Benefits accesses Lois' talent for data entry, filing and preparing large mailings to employees as needed. Staff writes this about Lois, "Not only is she competent in completing a variety of tasks, but Lois brings a wealth of experience from her former career in local governments."

Employee Recruitment also utilizes Lois' expertise for purging, organizing and archiving employee recruitment files. Since a large number of applicants respond each time the county has an open position, there is much documentation that needs attention. Lois always takes on each task with a cheerful willingness and offers brilliant, timely and creative ideas and solutions. Recruitment staff says, "Without Lois' valuable help, county recruitment would probably still be buried in outdated documents from the 1900s!"

Lois is an integral and valuable member of the Business Services team who is more than willing to offer her expertise where needed.

Tracy Strahan, is a volunteer for School Based Health Center Operational Council and was nominated by the Health Department.

Tracy has been a member of the council since August 2007. She has been a continuous presence and champion for student health services in this setting. She serves as the chairperson for this council, and has rarely missed a meeting. She has served on the fund raising committee and has written letters of intent and grant proposals to support the center. She brings new ideas and enthusiasm for the service the center provides to meetings; her positive attitude is appreciated.

In addition to her role as chair of the Operational Council, she also serves as an Executive Committee member. Not only does she attend meetings and write grants, she also supports Youth Advisory Council members and attends community meetings to market the center's services and solicit community involvement. Tracy provides consistent positive support to the center's partner organizations, staff, and to community children through her enthusiastic support and continuous involvement with this project. She has always believed in the work of the center.

Tracy, a very busy community member who cares enough about Salem students to carve time out of her exceptionally busy life to support their health and school success. She is an enthusiastic go-to person who has championed good health for students in the Salem Keizer area through service at the school based health center.

CCTV VOLUNTEERS

The county also thanks the volunteers of CCTV who film the commissioners' board sessions each week. These dedicated volunteers spend their Wednesday mornings behind the cameras making sure the public has access to the work of county government. Richard Gallagher, Ed Freydl, and Joe Fabbri came out from behind the cameras for a moment to be recognized.

Thanks all the wonderful volunteers who serve Marion County and the community.



From left to right: Joe Fabbri, Ed Freydl, Richard Gallagher, Commissioner Sam Brentano, and Commissioner Patti Milne.