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## **Seven Recipients Win State's Highest Volunteer Award**

SALEM—Oregon volunteers demonstrate their commitment to their state and its people. In honor of their service, seven individuals and groups will be honored with 2008 Oregon Governor's Volunteer Awards:

- Outstanding Adult (ages 19-54): Cathleen Miller, Redmond School District & Redmond TAPS, Redmond
- Outstanding Youth (age 18 or under): Lindsey Tsai, Liberty High School Student Government, Hillsboro
- Outstanding Senior Volunteer (age 55+): Barbara L. Sackett, The Arc of Benton County, Corvallis
- Outstanding Volunteer Program: Silverton Hospital Auxiliary, Silverton
- Outstanding Statewide Volunteer Program: Medical Teams International Mobile Dental Program
- Outstanding Employee Volunteer Program: Rogue Federal Credit Union, Medford
- Outstanding Youth Volunteer Program: Cascade AIDS Project Teen2Teen Peer Education Program

*(Additional information on each winner is attached.)*

These awards, presented by Oregon Volunteers, State Commission for Voluntary Action and Service, recognize volunteers and volunteer programs that have demonstrated dedication, commitment, and determination in promoting and supporting volunteerism throughout Oregon and have worked to strengthen communities and improve the quality of life for Oregon residents through service.

Additionally, seventeen individuals and programs will be honored with the 2008 Regional Oregon Governor's Volunteer Awards:

- Joemal Bonneau, American Red Cross, Hammond
- Bruce Brown, Portland Impact, Portland
- Beth Day, After School Ralleyball & Mt. Ashland Ski Program, Medford
- Crook County NJROTC Program, Crook County High School, Prineville
- Catherine Freer Wilderness Expeditions, Albany
- Elderlibraries, Hermiston Public Library, Hermiston
- Travis Hase, Mercy Medical Center, Myrtle Creek
- MaryEllen LaBerge, Shelter from the Storm & Meals on Wheels, LaGrande
- Intel Involved Volunteer Program, Hillsboro
- Josephine County CERT, Grants Pass
- Kids on the Block, Portland
- Sharon Looney, AARP Tax Aide, Eugene
- Myrtle Creek Volunteer Fire Department, Myrtle Creek
- Sally Norbom, Columbia County RSVP, St. Helens
- Payal Razdan, Neighborhood House, Portland
- Midge Renton, North Valley High School ASPIRE Program, Grants Pass
- Marie Walsh, Deschutes County Health Department, Bend

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In celebration of these outstanding recipients and all volunteers across Oregon, Oregon Volunteers, Commission for Voluntary Action and Service invites you to the 2008 Governor's Volunteer Awards Luncheon & Volunteerism in Oregon Forum. The awards will be presented on Friday, September 12, 2008 at the Salem Conference Center, 200 Commercial Street SE in Salem, Oregon 97301. Tickets are \$28 each or \$200 for a table of eight and can be purchased online at [www.oregonvolunteers.org](http://www.oregonvolunteers.org)

"Every day, extraordinary individuals, organizations, and businesses effect real change in their communities through volunteer service. They are the catalysts that help others move past their differences to build shared understanding and solve common problems. Volunteers give Oregon hope for the future," said Jack Lorts, Co-chair of Oregon Volunteers.

**Oregon Volunteers**, Commission for Voluntary Action & Service promotes and supports AmeriCorps, volunteerism and civic engagement to strengthen Oregon communities.

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## 2008 Statewide Volunteer Award Winners

### *Outstanding Adult (ages 19-54) Volunteer*

#### **Cathleen Miller**

Redmond School District, TAPS Redmond, Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife  
*Redmond*

From working to pass a \$110 million school bond measure to serving as a certified Hunter Education Instructor, Cathy Miller's diverse service to the community of Redmond evokes descriptions such as "tireless", "motivating", and "invaluable". After retiring from a military career, Cathy devoted her time and energy to improving the quality of education for her three teenage sons by serving on the Redmond School Board. From this position she has worked to build community support for three major school bonds, including relieving pressure on the overcrowded Redmond High School by building a new school.

Cathy has also demonstrated a commitment to youth safety and development by volunteering with the Redmond TAPS (Think Again ParentS) substance abuse prevention team. Through her skills in networking and strengthening connections between youth, parents, and the wider community, she has introduced successful initiatives such as "Party Safe Homes." In addition, Cathy coordinates the Redmond High Panther PRIDE Program to develop student leaders active in their school and community through retreats and partnerships with local business leaders. In the words of her nominator, "The passion that Cathy Miller has for the youth of the Redmond Community is apparent in all her volunteer efforts."

### *Outstanding Youth Volunteer (age 18 or under)*

#### **Lindsey Tsai**

Liberty High School Student Government  
*Hillsboro*

At a high school dance for special needs students hosted by typical peers, Lindsey noticed that there was a lack of interaction between the two groups of teens. She wanted to create an event that would bring everyone together and break down the barriers between special needs students and their typical peers. With the help of another student from Liberty High School in Hillsboro, Lindsey decided to organize a school dance that was aimed at building connections between special needs and typical students. After contacting other local high schools, the first dance drew special needs students from five schools along with typical peers and student leaders from Liberty High. Participants and aides were amazed by how much the fun environment let everyone open up to each other.

Lindsey has built upon this initial success by expanding the dance for next year through applying for grants and working with a local church to ensure an accessible dance floor for all. Liberty High School also decided to include special needs students in their Homecoming Dance by creating a Duke and Duchess in their Homecoming Court. As the Special Needs Dance continues thanks to Lindsey's leadership, more and more opportunities for interaction are bringing special needs students and their typical peers together in a spirit of respect and fun.



### *Outstanding Senior Volunteer (age 55+)*

#### **Barbara L. Sackett**

The Arc of Benton County, Willamette Neighborhood Housing, Benton County Special Transportation Advisory Committee  
*Corvallis*

For over 40 years, Barbara Sackett has devoted her time and energy towards providing services for the disabled and disadvantaged of Benton County and beyond. When Barbara and her husband became the parents of a developmentally disabled daughter in the early 1950's, she formed the Arc of Benton County with like-minded parents to better serve the disabled community. From starting a school for developmentally disabled children in a church basement to initiating housing programs for all disabled citizens, Barbara identified community needs and collaborated with local and state agencies to improve people's lives. Her strong dedication to serving disabled children and citizens has led her to serve as president for the Arc at county, state, and national levels, even presenting her work to fellow experts in Europe.

Barbara serves as the Chair of Benton County's Special Transportation Advisory Committee as well as on the Board of Directors of Willamette Neighborhood Housing, which allows her volunteerism to have an even greater impact. She makes sure that those living in poverty, including those with disabilities, have decent, affordable, and accessible housing options. In between raising nine children and working a full time job, Barbara's decades of service exemplify the selflessness and passion of a truly outstanding volunteer.

### *Outstanding Volunteer Program*

#### **Silverton Hospital Auxiliary**

*Silverton*

Since 1958, the Silverton Hospital Auxiliary has served as the strongest link between the rural Silverton community and the small Silverton Hospital, all thanks to volunteer commitment and impressive fundraising. In the 1990's when financial troubles threatened to close the hospital, the Auxiliary rallied community support and raised \$1 million for a renovation. This kind of community development and fundraising has continued through today, with volunteers giving almost 24,500 hours of service last year and procuring over \$150,000 in donations, pledges, grants, and scholarships in the last seven years alone.

Some of the key projects provided by the Silverton Hospital Auxiliary include the free CareVan medical transport service for the elderly and handicapped, a downtown Community Outreach Clinic staffed by volunteer physicians, and regular volunteer help with assembling charts for surgical patients. Donations from the Auxiliary, totaling over \$300,000 in 20 years, have provided Silverton Hospital with a new Family Birth Center, a 64-Slice CT Scanner, and the Vial of Life Program to collaborate with local fire and police departments to provide vital medical information in emergency situations.



### *Outstanding Statewide Volunteer Program*

#### **Mobile Dental Program Medical Teams International** *Statewide*

According to 2007 data, one quarter of Oregon's children do not have dental insurance, and one quarter to one third of all Oregonians do not receive annual dental care. Oral disease is five times more common than asthma among children. The Mobile Dental Program run by Medical Teams International has been working address this critical community need by providing urgent dental care to low-income, uninsured, elderly, and disabled patients since 1989.

With 5.5% of Oregon's licensed dentists volunteering their time and skills, over 150,000 adults and children with no other access to dental care have received fillings, extractions, and root canals free of charge in 22 counties in Oregon. Due to the services of the Mobile Dental Program, hospital emergency rooms have saved half a million dollars in ER costs, and thousands of Oregonians can go to work and school without constant dental pain.

### *Outstanding Employee Volunteer Program*

#### **Rogue Federal Credit Union** *Medford*

Rogue Federal Credit Union integrates their Volunteer Involvement Program into the values of the company and the needs of their community. Through direct volunteer service and monetary donations, RFCU employees have helped with community projects from repainting children's centers to the United Way Day of Caring. Last year, RFCU volunteers gave almost 9,000 hours of their time and energy, affecting over 80,000 children, seniors, and adults.

RFCU's largest volunteer contribution, the ACCESS Food Re-Packing project, helps seniors and low-income families in Jackson County receive nutritious food boxes to meet this important community need. Another highlight of their service involved the repainting of the North Medford Childhood Development Center, where employees also gave money management classes to teen parents on how to recover from poor credit histories. These projects underscore the engagement of RFCU with their community through recognizing critical needs and taking responsibility for those less fortunate.

### *Outstanding Youth Volunteer Program or Group*

#### **Teen2Teen Peer Education Program Cascade AIDS Project** *Portland*

In Oregon, 19% of new people infected with HIV/AIDS were under the age of 30, illustrating the importance of youth-based HIV education programs. For 15 years, the Teen2Teen Peer Education Program has been dedicated to informing and empowering Portland area youth about HIV and sexuality. Through training and mentorship, a diverse group of 15 Teen2Teen Peer Educators gain communication skills and medically accurate sexuality education so that they can inform and empower other teens.



Teen2Teen Peer Educators lead workshops on HIV prevention and healthy sexuality for youth ages 11-19 for schools, drug and alcohol treatment centers, transitional housing projects, adjudicated youth programs, and other community centers. Through collaboration with other groups such as Planned Parenthood's Teen Council, the Sexual Minority Youth Resource Center, New Avenues for Youth, and the African American Health Coalition's peer educators, Teen2Teen reaches a "diverse array of youth" with an empowering message to make healthy, informed decisions about their sexuality.

### **2008 Regional Governor's Volunteer Awards**

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- Crook County NJROTC Program, Crook County High School, Prineville
- Catherine Freer Wilderness Expeditions, Albany
- Elderlibraries, Hermiston Public Library, Hermiston
- Travis Hase, Mercy Medical Center, Myrtle Creek
- MaryEllen LaBerge, Shelter from the Storm & Meals on Wheels. LaGrande
- Intel Involved Volunteer Program, Hillsboro
- Josephine County CERT, Grants Pass
- Kids on the Block, Portland
- Sharon Looney, AARP Tax Aide, Eugene
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