



CONTACTS

Dana Ziolkowski, Oregon Volunteers
(503) 725-5998
dana@oregonvolunteers.org

Tom Unger, Wells Fargo
(503) 886-2051
ungert@wellsfargo.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Nominations Now Open for 2011 Oregon Governor's Volunteer Awards; Wells Fargo commits \$60,000 to support program for three years

SALEM, Ore. — Nominations are now being accepted for the 2011 Oregon Governor's Volunteer Awards, hosted by Oregon Volunteers Commission for Voluntary Action and Service. These awards, which have a new presenting sponsor, shine the spotlight on trailblazing individuals, programs and organizations that are creating positive change through volunteerism throughout Oregon.

The awards are given at both the regional and statewide levels in the following categories:

- Outstanding Youth Volunteer (age 18 or younger)
- Outstanding Adult Volunteer (age 19-54)
- Outstanding Senior Volunteer (age 55 or better)
- Outstanding Volunteer Program
- Outstanding Statewide Volunteer Program (operating in 3 or more regions)
- Outstanding Youth Volunteer Program or Group
- Outstanding Business Volunteer Program
- Outstanding Lifetime Volunteer Achievement (at least 10 years of service in Oregon)

Governor's Volunteer Awards information and the nomination form are available online at www.oregonvolunteers.org/events/gva. Nomination information is also available at Wells Fargo bank branches throughout Oregon. There is no cost to enter a nomination. The nomination deadline is **June 13, 2011**.

Through an intense review process, award recipients will be chosen and then honored at a luncheon **November 4, 2011** at the Salem Conference Center.

Wells Fargo Commits \$60,000 to Program

Wells Fargo has committed to donating \$60,000 to the program over the next three years, earning it the title of Presenting Sponsor of the Governor's Volunteer Awards. Organizers will use the funds to provide cash grants, which each winner will designate to a nonprofit group of their choosing. Last year, Wells Fargo earned the statewide award for *Outstanding Volunteer Program*.

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“This is a marvelous program and we want to do all we can to support it,” said Wells Fargo Regional President Don Pearson. “Volunteerism is one of the many ways we help our communities succeed financially. In 2010, our team members nationwide volunteered 1.3 million volunteer hours, including 77,367 hours in Oregon and southwest Washington.”

“Oregon has incredible volunteers who work tirelessly to improve our communities every day,” said Emily Gilliland, Oregon Volunteers chair. “These selfless individuals and influential organizations have a great impact on our neighborhoods—a true testament to the power of volunteerism. We’re proud to partner with Wells Fargo to honor these leaders with Oregon’s highest level of recognition in volunteerism.”

Oregon Volunteers is the State Commission for Voluntary Action and Service promoting and supporting AmeriCorps, volunteerism and civic engagement to strengthen Oregon communities. For more information about Oregon Volunteers, please visit <http://www.oregonvolunteers.org>

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