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Media Contact: Kathleen Joy, Executive Director

Office: (888) 353-4483 ▪ Cell: (503) 816-5749 ▪ Email: kathleen@oregonvolunteers.org

Seven Recipients Win State's Highest Volunteer Award

SALEM—Oregon volunteers have demonstrated exemplary commitment to their state and its people. In recognition of their service, seven individuals and groups will be honored with 2007 Oregon Governor's Volunteer Awards:

- Outstanding Adult (ages 19-54): Diane Garrett, Nursing Mothers Counsel, Portland.
- Outstanding Youth (age 18 or under): Stephanie Risner, Girl Scouts Winema Council, Central Point.
- Outstanding Senior Volunteer (age 55+): James Gunn, Central Oregon Veterans Outreach, Crooked River Ranch.
- Outstanding Volunteer Program: Faith in Action, Newberg.
- Outstanding Statewide Volunteer Program: Senior Health Insurance Benefits Assistance (SHIBA), Oregon Department of Consumer & Business Services, Salem.
- Outstanding Employee Volunteer Program: Starbucks Coffee Company, Portland.
- Outstanding Youth Volunteer Program: Benton County Commission on Children & Families Youth Commission, Corvallis.

(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.

“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 Ralph Brown, chair of Oregon Volunteers.

Additionally, fourteen individuals and programs will be honored with the 2007 Regional Oregon Governor's Volunteer Awards:

- Clyde Mullin, Oregon State Library, Keizer.
- Carolyn Sutter, Oregon Zoo, Portland.
- Di Lyn Larsen-Hill, Union County Chamber of Commerce, La Grande.
- Donald Jones, Linn-Benton RSVP, Corvallis.
- Jefferson County Arts Association, Madras.

Mail : P.O. Box 751-CSC • Portland OR 97207 • Phone: (503) 725-5903 • Toll-free: (888) 353-4483 • Fax: (503) 725-8335 • www.oregonvolunteers.org



- Josh Savey, Coastal Douglas Arts & Business Alliance, Reedsport.
- Kate Tarter, Salem Parks & Recreation District, Salem.
- Lawrence Rew, Legal Aid Services of Oregon, Pendleton.
- Matthew Epstein, Oregon State University Extension Service Jackson County, Jacksonville.
- Prescription Assistance Program, Roseburg.
- Rx from the Heart Volunteer Group, Grants Pass.
- Sara Leiman, Oregon State University Extension Service, Monroe.
- Sewing Ladies from Lake Grove Presbyterian Church, Lake Oswego.
- Steve Weiss, Housing Advocacy Group, Portland.
- Tamara Snook, Riley Creek School, Gold Beach.

In celebration of these outstanding recipients and all volunteers across Oregon, Oregon Volunteers, Commission for Voluntary Action and Service invites you to the 2007 Governor's Volunteer Awards Luncheon & Volunteerism in Oregon Forum. The awards will be presented:

Friday, September 28, 2007
Salem Conference Center
200 Commercial Street SE
Salem, Oregon 97301.

Tickets are \$28 each or \$200 for a table of eight and can be purchased online at www.oregonvolunteers.org

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

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2007 Statewide Volunteer Award Winners

Outstanding Adult (ages 19-54) Volunteer

Diane Garrett
Nursing Mothers Counsel of Oregon
Portland

Diane was instrumental in the 2005 passage of the Workplace Accommodation for Breastfeeding Mothers bill and the 2007 Return to Work and Breastfeeding bill. While Oregon boasts the highest breastfeeding initiation rate in the country, Diane recognized that many mothers fall short of the six months exclusive breastfeeding recommendation of major health groups. She brought together an impressive and long list of stakeholders and partners from government, health care, organized labor and private industry to support working moms in their efforts to continue breastfeeding their babies.

Outstanding Youth Volunteer (age 18 or under)

Stephanie Risner
Girl Scouts of Winema Council
Central Point

Stephanie Risner is a 13 year old Girl Scout concerned about the lives of other teens. After discovering that other girls her age were sometimes living in shelters with little more than the clothes on their back, Stephanie thought about how she could help. Starting with a list of basic hygiene items like soap and toothpaste and entertaining items like crossword puzzle books and journals, Stephanie's Survival Backpack for Teens project through the Children's Advocacy Center in Medford was born. Over 200 backpacks have been donated to the Advocacy Center. The backpacks are now categorized to serve the needs of teen girls and boys and youth and include seasonal items like gloves and sunscreen.

Outstanding Senior Volunteer (age 55+)

James Gunn
Central Oregon Veteran's Outreach
Crooked River Ranch

A Marine combat veteran who has overcome personal service-related struggles, James Gunn demonstrates extraordinary compassion for his fellow veterans. Jim was involved with the formation of the Central Oregon Veterans Outreach program and remains essential to its operation. He and other volunteers spend their days locating homeless camps in remote locations,



providing sleeping bags, cooking fuel and other necessities. Frequently, he puts in fifty hours a week and people call his cell phone at all hours in emergency situations. Jim has also helped set up transitional housing including gathering furnishings, filling the “clothing closet” and recently assembling an exercise gym.

Outstanding Volunteer Program

Faith in Action
Newberg

Faith in Action is a coalition of 14 faith communities’ agencies, and organizations formed to address specific community needs in the Newberg area. By supplying in-home care and transportation to elderly people, volunteers improve their quality of life and allow them to remain in their homes longer. Likewise, Faith in Action’s Family Friends program provides vital companionship and mentoring for children with special needs, as well as support for their families. In 2006, approximately 300 volunteers donated 3,750 hours of service through Faith in Action. 89% of older adults served felt that volunteer assistance helped increase their ability to stay in their own homes and 93% felt their stress level was reduced by volunteer services.

Outstanding Statewide Volunteer Program

SHIBA State of Oregon Department of Human Services
Salem

SHIBA – Senior Health Insurance Benefits Assistance – has quietly assisted Oregonians with Medicare for almost 20 years, but the response of their volunteers to the implementation of Medicare’s Part D was SHIBA’s finest hour. The federal grant-funded SHIBA program was mandated, without additional funding, to add assistance with Medicare Part D’s rollout to its workload. This volunteer network of 300 volunteers contributed 23,478 hours and provided direct assistance to over 30,400 Oregon Medicare beneficiaries struggling to navigate the system.

Outstanding Employee Volunteer Program

Starbucks Coffee Co.
Portland

Starbucks Coffee Company has partnered with the Portland Parks & Recreation Department to “adopt” Peninsula, Kenilworth, Gabriel, and Forest Parks and recently added Laurelhurst Park. Starbucks managers plan projects for the park, encourage employees to participate and publicize them to the public. Last year, volunteers with Starbucks logged 1,760 hours and the Starbucks



Foundation backed their sweat equity with \$8,000 in contributions. They've improved habitat, repaired trails, repainted playgrounds, improved a community garden, installed a natural filter system to clean run-off before it reaches a protected creek, and provided the "fun" at Family Night carnivals.

Outstanding Youth Volunteer Program or Group

Youth Commission
Benton County Commission on Children & Families
Corvallis

Established in 1997, the Youth Commission of the Benton County Commission on Children and Families provides youth a voice in policies, practices and activities that impact young people in Benton County. Students from all five area high schools participate, contributing over 2,000 hours to community projects each year. The youth commission collaborates with the Voz Estudiantil Latina en Accion Latino youth group on an annual Teen Summit. 500 students participate in the day-long conference and commission members plan all aspects of the day from keynote speakers to facilities and logistics. The Youth Commission also plans and implements an annual Teen Idol competition to provide teens with a fun drug and alcohol free activity for seven Friday evenings during April and May.

2007 Regional Governor's Volunteer Awards

- Clyde Mullin, Oregon State Library, Keizer
- Carolyn Sutter, Oregon Zoo, Portland
- Di Lyn Larsen-Hill, Union County Chamber of Commerce, La Grande
- Donald Jones, AARP Tax-Aid, Corvallis
- Jefferson County Arts Association, Madras
- Josh Savey, Coastal Douglas Arts & Business Alliance, Reedsport
- Kate Tarter, Salem Parks & Recreation District, Salem
- Lawrence Rew, Legal Aid Services of Oregon, Pendleton
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