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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Winners Selected for 2015 Governor's Volunteer Awards

SALEM, Ore. — Oregon Volunteers is pleased to announce the 2015 Governor's Volunteer Awards. Some incredible volunteers from across the State of Oregon will be recognized for their hard work and dedication during the 2015 Governor's Volunteer Awards Luncheon. The luncheon will take place on Monday, October 12 at 11:30 in the Salem Conference Center, located at 200 Commercial St. SE.

The awards will honor 18 individuals or duos and 10 volunteer programs. Of those, eight are state-level awards, and 22 are regional awards (see winners list below). The winners serve in areas stretching from Grants Pass to Hermiston and Wallowa to Coos Bay, and places in between. Award recipients were selected by panels of volunteer engagement leaders from across the state.

The luncheon is open to the public. Tickets are \$30 and must be purchased online by October 5th at: <http://www.oregonvolunteers.org/events/gva/>.

The Oregon Volunteers Commission for Voluntary Action and Service organizes the awards program. Wells Fargo sponsors the awards and will make a cash grant to a nonprofit organization of each winner's choice.

"Through their skilled labor and professional services, board service, or simply lending an ear and providing friendship, the honorees' dedication to volunteerism has helped create stronger, more vibrant Oregon communities," said Wells Fargo Oregon Regional President Tracy Curtis, who volunteers frequently.

Every year, Oregon Volunteers recognizes incredible volunteers for their hard work and dedication to making Oregon a better place.

State-Level Winners

Adult Volunteer: Lindsay Lermo of Clackamas
Impact NW Volunteer

Lindsay Lermo has been a devoted and invaluable volunteer for Impact NW's All Kids Are (AKA) Scientists program, volunteering over 365 hours, all while taking public transportation between Clackamas and Portland locations. Lindsay's greatest contribution has been her skillful crafting of clear, kid-friendly scientific explanations for AKA Science activities which have been integrated as a "What's Going On?" section following each activity in the curriculum. Lindsay has also provided vital assistance with: testing science activities for quality and safety, reviewing and synthesizing instructor comments, researching replacement activities to strengthen the curriculum, writing and editing portions of curriculum, filming web tutorials to demonstrate how to facilitate activities and identifying linkages with Next Generation Science Standards. She does all of this with "incredible positivity and contagious enthusiasm".

Elder Volunteer: Bill Ruitter of Bend

Ponderosa Elementary School Volunteer

Bill Ruitter started volunteering with Ponderosa Elementary School simply because a neighborhood child stopped and asked him if he could help her learn to read. As a former Start Making a Reader Today (SMART) volunteer, Bill Ruitter decided there was a need in his own neighborhood and chose to help. Since then he has volunteered countless hours and helped numerous students improve their skills. He spends time each day with students from 1st through 5th grades helping them with math, reading, or computer coding. He is also responsible for bringing the Khan Academy program to the school, starting a summer learning camp, recruiting new volunteers, and helping to create new community partnerships for the school. He always looks for ways to help students and their families and meets with countless parents explaining how to help their children at home in order to better prepare them for what they are faced with in school. He does all this with a passion and enthusiasm for learning that is contagious.

Lifetime Achievement Volunteer (State-level impact): Jean D. Cauthorn of Portland

Citizen Review Board Volunteer

Jean Cauthorn has been an active volunteer of the Citizen Review Board (CRB) for the last 30 years. CRB is a program within the state court system that reviews the cases of children in foster care. Jean's dedication and bold personality set her apart from other volunteers. She is among the longest serving board members in the program and one of the few actively involved volunteers who was there from the very beginning. From 1998 to 2009 she served on the CRB's State Advisory Council, serving part of this time as the vice-chairwoman, and in the mid-1990s Jean was part of a project focused on making CRB reviews more consistent across Multnomah County's 20 citizen review boards. Throughout her life of service, she also served on numerous county, state, and national boards. Her stories of past victories and heartaches serve as reminders of the passion and energy for child advocacy that created citizen review in our state and the powerful impact one can have just by never leaving and never giving up. Her volunteerism has been pivotal in making a change for children statewide.

Lifetime Achievement Volunteers (Community-level impact): Elizabeth Black and Margaret Juenke of Lincoln City

Lincoln City Cultural Center Volunteers

Elizabeth Black and Margaret Juenke have been pivotal in supporting the Lincoln City Cultural Center's mission to enrich the community through art and cultural events in the historic Delake School. Margaret was the lead on planning and organizing grant applications to renovate all of the rooms and the building and obtained approximately \$1.2 million in grants from various foundations for the renovation. Elizabeth served as the unpaid executive director, working full-time with contractors on renovations and on expanding programs. She also booked performing artists and other events into the newly renovated auditorium and engaged with local artists for classes as space became available. Both women have contributed thousands of hours of volunteer work to bring a vital cultural center to their community and improving their community overall.

Youth Volunteer Program: Chicas Youth Development Program, Adelante Mujeres of Forest Grove

Chicas Youth Development Program is the first youth development program of its kind in Oregon. It provides a comprehensive and proactive approach to empower Latina girls from 3rd through 12th grade. The program works with more than 350 students from both the Forest Grove School District (FGSD) and Hillsboro School District (HSD). The program instills the importance of community leadership and civic engagement as an essential element to create change, build strong communal ties and achieve success. It allows young girls to have an opportunity to give back to their community through volunteer service. During the 2014-2015 academic school year, the Chicas participants served more than 1,000 hours to their



community members and partners. Not only do the girls contribute significant volunteer hours, but many have graduated high school, gone on to college, and returned to their community as leaders and volunteers. The Chicas program provides role models for younger girls in the community and continues the positive cycle of giving back to their community to create a more inclusive society.

Community Based Volunteer Program: La Grande Main Street Downtown of La Grande

La Grande Main Street Downtown (LGMSD) has been the primary driver for community and business buy-in necessary to boost revitalization efforts for La Grande, a rural timber and agricultural community that is isolated from surrounding cities. They have worked tirelessly to preserve the heart and soul of La Grande through volunteerism, historic preservation and a proven revitalization plan. Through events such as the Crazy Days Sidewalk Sales and Car Show, Downtown Trick or Treating, the Annual Christmas Parade, New Year's Eve Ball Drop, and the Eastern Oregon Beer Festival, LGMSD has worked to improve the economic profile of the community. Board volunteers go door to door for months, spending 220 hours on membership efforts and in 2014 volunteers gave more than 8,175 hours. LGMSD has overcome setbacks, become more innovative, and created new partnerships. They have “stepped up and established themselves as a vibrant, viable organization that is truly making a difference for the City of La Grande”.

Large Business Volunteer Program: KPFF Consulting Engineers of Portland

KPFF Consulting Engineers has partnered with Architecture Foundation of Oregon for fourteen years contributing free office space and working diligently on the Architects in Schools program. Through this program, design professionals collaborate with elementary schools to complete six-week residencies in 3rd to 5th grade classrooms, providing valuable lessons in visual arts, math, language arts, social studies and science within the context of students’ daily experiences. The program provides arts programming, environmental understanding, awareness of cultural links to history, understanding responsibility to the natural environment, career awareness and communication skills. KPFF employees have also completed service projects volunteering as mentors in the Ace Mentor Program for high school students, serving with Architects without Borders, and competing annually in CANstruction (benefiting the Oregon Food Bank). All of these projects directly put the highly specialized knowledge of their engineers to use and KPFF’s commitment to providing volunteer time to employees is a clear example of a company that understands how allowing employees to give back to the community adds to their fulfillment at work and to the greater good.

Statewide Community Based Volunteer Program: The Oregon Community Foundation grant Evaluators of Portland

The Oregon Community Foundation (OCF) works with Oregonians who support the causes they care about by giving grants to nonprofits and scholarships to students. OCF is supported by two teams of volunteer grant evaluators, a total of nearly 100 people, who are OCF’s eyes and ears around the state and who bring their assessment skills to OCF. Two OCF grant programs rely on volunteers: the statewide Community Grant program, which awards \$6 million annually to programs that address community needs and foster civic engagement, and The Reed and Carolee Walker Fund grant program, which awards nearly \$2 million annually to programs that assist needy children in Southern Oregon. Volunteer evaluators commit 20 – 30 hours over a six week period reading and analyzing applications, visiting nonprofits to learn more about their activities and operations, and advising the foundation on community needs and opportunities. OCF’s nearly 100 volunteer grant evaluators consistently demonstrate the power of volunteer engagement. For nearly 40 years they have been quietly connecting community needs with the generous Oregonians who give back through OCF.



Regional Winners

Youth Volunteers

- **Madison “Madi” McNeely** (*Myrtle Point*) – United Way Day of Caring
- **Briana Larios** (*Forest Grove*) – Adelante Mujeres

Adult Volunteers

- **Karen Andall** (*Stayton*) – Marion County Court Appointed Special Advocate
- **Stacy Rose** (*Coos Bay*) – South Coast Folk Society
- **Deborrah Reth** (*Wallowa*) – Wallowa Local Food Project
- **Melissa Digregorio** (*Lake Oswego*) – Childrens Cancer Association

Elder Volunteers

- **Nancy Morgan** (*Keizer*) – Keizer Community Food Bank
- **Maradee & Barry Girt** (*Eugene*) – Friends of Buford Park & Mt. Pisgah
- **Craig Pear & Alan Crews** (*Grants Pass*) – UCAN- RSVP “Vet Team”
- **Diane Shockman** (*Hermiston*) – Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)
- **Bill Griffith** (*Gresham*) – Long- Term Care Ombudsman
- **Worth & Barbara Caldwell** (*Portland*) – Meals on Wheels

Community Based Volunteer Program

- **Marion County Fair Board** (*Salem*)
- **Eugene Police Department Squad Car Maintenance Team** (*Eugene*)
- **Volunteers and Board members, United Way of Southwestern Oregon-Day of Caring** (*Coos Bay*)
- **Volunteers of the City of Antelope Fire Department** (*Antelope*)
- **Milwaukie Center Emergency Firewood Program** (*Milwaukie*)
- **The 107 Independent Supporters’ Trust (107ist)/ Timbers Army** (*Portland*)

Small Business Volunteer Program

- **Portland Timbers & Thorns FC Stand Together Community Platform** (*Portland*)

Large Business Volunteer Program

- **Waggner Edstrom Community Involvement** (*Lake Oswego*)

Lifetime Achievement

- **Jim & Lynn Mudd** (*Manzanita*) – Mudd Nick Foundation
- **Joan Harvey** (*Portland*) – Our House

Oregon Volunteers is the State Commission for Voluntary Action and Service. Its mission is to strengthen our communities by inspiring Oregonians to actively engage, volunteer and serve. Oregon Volunteers promotes and supports AmeriCorps, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), volunteerism and civic engagement to strengthen Oregon communities.

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