



COLUMBIA COUNTY
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, April 28, 2010

NEWS RELEASE

INFORMATION CONTACT:

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COMMISSIONERS HONOR VOLUNTEERS

At the April 28, 2010, Board of Commission Meeting the Board honored the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) Volunteers that serve at the Columbia County Courthouse who work in various county departments. The Board noted that there had been a total of 1,871 hours of volunteer service, in the past year, that has been provided with a total savings of \$39,010 to the County.

Many visitors to the Courthouse are greeted everyday by RSVP Volunteers who assist them in finding the various County departments. Site Supervisor, Sally Norbom, recruits, trains and schedules the volunteers. “The volunteers provide guidance and assist residents when they don’t know where to go to complete county business”, said Sally Norbom. “We get a lot of satisfaction from helping people, so the benefits of the RSVP program go both ways,” she added.

Other volunteers who provide numerous hours and who are indispensable in helping the County are Linda Gaskill and Andrew Myers. Both Gaskill and Myers volunteer in the District Attorney’s Office. Gaskill has been working with the Victims Assistance Program since 2000 and is currently working with the Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) giving an average of 20 hours per week to the program. Her work helps keep vulnerable children from slipping through the bureaucratic cracks.

Myers volunteers as a deputy District Attorney and has a history of volunteering, including teaching, working with immigrant victims of domestic abuse, Legal Aid Services of Oregon and rebuilding neighborhoods. He began in March and is putting his skills to good use while he searches for a permanent position. Andrew assists with the misdemeanor caseload and justice court cases.

Other Volunteers also honored by the Board at today's meeting included Gina Harrington and Paulette Lichatowich who are Community Meal Site Volunteers. Gina and Paulette Volunteer at the Community Meals Site located at the First Lutheran Parish Hall at 4th and Wyeth Streets in St. Helens providing free meals to the community.

The Community Meals program, which is a member of the Columbia Pacific Food Bank, operates as a benevolent kitchen, and is the only program of its kind in Columbia County. The program serves a warm health free meal to an average of 90 guests per evening every Tuesday and Thursday from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

The Board of County Commissioners expressed appreciation to all of these volunteers. For additional information on how you can get involved in volunteer programs, contact Jan Kenna, Director of Children and Family Services at 503-397-7211

Picture Courtesy Janet Wright

Those in the picture from left to right, starting with the back row are: Jan Kenna, Shannon Fitzgibbons, Mary Kucera, Nancy Harwood, Paulette Lichatowich, Gina Harrington
Front row: L to R are Mary Dahlgren, Elaine Widmer, Sally Norbom, Dena Chesney, and Carmel Chatterton.

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