

2015 Governor's Service Recognition Winners Announced!



[Madison, Wisconsin] – Six winners will be recognized at the Governor's Service Recognition ceremony at 10:00 A.M., on June 4 at the Monona Terrace located at One John Nolen Dr., Madison, WI 53703. The Governor's Service Recognitions are presented to programs and individuals participating in organizations funded by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) through AmeriCorps and Senior Corps. This event provides an opportunity to recognize organizations and individuals that help solve serious social problems and help strengthen their community. Lt. Governor Rebecca Kleefisch will speak and present the awards. Amber Noggle of the channel 27 News Team will be the Master of Ceremony at this event.

2015 Governor's Service Awards

Governor's Community Service AmeriCorps Participant or Program Honoree

Pathfinders' 2013-2014 AmeriCorps Team ~ Wisconsin Association for Homeless and Runaway Services, Milwaukee

Governor's Senior Corps Participant or Program Honoree

Linda Timm - RSVP Waukesha County

Marty Stein Friend of National Service Exemplary Supporter

Susan F. Mikulay- College Possible, Milwaukee

Governor's Veteran Volunteer Service Award

Rick Steeber – Foster Grandparents, DePere

Governor's Volunteer Engagement Award

Rev. Erik Koepnick – Guest House of Milwaukee

Governor's Disability Inclusion Award

Goodwill AmeriCorps Financial Empowerment Services - Goodwill of Milwaukee



Serve Wisconsin and the CNCS State Office, sponsors the Governor's Service Recognitions. Serve Wisconsin is a 22-member citizen body appointed by the Governor responsible for overseeing AmeriCorps grants, which address unmet human, environmental, public safety, educational, and homeland security needs. For more information about Serve Wisconsin or funded AmeriCorps programs, visit www.servewisconsin.wi.gov.

The Corporation for National and Community Service provides opportunities for Americans of all ages and backgrounds to serve their communities and country through programs like AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, the Social Innovation Fund, the Volunteer Generation Fund, and more. The Corporation is working to build a culture of citizenship, service, and responsibility in America. For more information, visit www.nationalservice.gov.

Now more than ever, it's important to make every dollar count. National service is a cost-effective solution that taps the power of citizens to get things done. We multiply the impact of our investment by generating hundreds of millions of non-federal dollars, mobilizing millions of additional volunteers, and operating with a high degree of accountability and efficiency.

Following are brief descriptions of each honoree:

Pathfinders' 2013-2014 AmeriCorps Team is receiving the Governor's recognition for an AmeriCorps program who has contributed significantly to community service. Pathfinders of Milwaukee is a nonprofit, community-based organization that assists homelessness youth throughout the city of Milwaukee. Five AmeriCorps members from the Wisconsin Association for Homeless and Runaway Services played a vital role in Pathfinders' success. From September 2013 through December 2014, AmeriCorps Members made over 7,000 contacts with individuals on the street and organized safe living arrangements for over 500 at-risk youth. AmeriCorps Members also distributed over 42,000 resource cards on services offered by Pathfinders and other community agencies during the 2013-2014 program year. "Pathfinder's becomes a constant stabilizing place in their lives. The first step towards leading a successful fulfilling life, which is all these youth really want. Then again, isn't that all anyone wants?" Tanya Kruit, former AmeriCorps member.

Linda Timm - RSVP Waukesha County will receive the Governor's Senior Corps Program award. Linda's volunteer service addresses education needs at Riverside Elementary School located in Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin. Due to staff cuts in the district, Riverside School in Menomonee Falls no longer has a full-time librarian, sufficient staffing for the school's health room, and has fewer classroom aides to assist students who need one-on-one help. Linda serves 370+ students (K-5) and staff members as a classroom tutor, library leader, volunteer trainer and health room assistant. Students know her and refer to her as "Grandma Timm." Linda is an advocate for school libraries and stresses the importance of reading books as learning opportunities through libraries.

Susan Mikulay, will receive the Marty Stein Friend of Service Exemplary Supporter award. Susan's belief in both the abilities of Milwaukee students and the power of national service lead her to College Possible, and to serving as their board chair. As a leader in the Milwaukee community, she serves College Possible in order to make the city a brighter place for all, and to bring more idealistic, driven recent college graduates to Milwaukee to have a direct impact on poverty. Susan has spent the past three years helping to ensure that College Possible Milwaukee can support and expand program services to more low-income students as they get into and through college. Susan's leadership has helped the organization secure close to \$1 million in donations from local corporations and foundations. Her participation in site visits and donor meetings, writing letters of support and making personal phone calls has been integral in opening the door to new relationships within Milwaukee.

Rick Steeber will receive the Veteran Volunteer Service Award. Rick Steeber, affectionately known as Grandpa Rick, served during the Vietnam War and has been associated with various Veterans associations including the Disabled Veterans Association. Rick continues his service as a Foster Grandparent at De Pere Encompass Child-care Center, a SCORE Counselor and a Chairperson at THRIVE. He is on the Downtown Green Bay Holiday Parade Committee and volunteers with the De Pere Area Chamber of Commerce, Our Lady of Lourdes, The United Way, Junior Achievement, and many other organizations. Besides being an avid volunteer, Grandpa Rick is an advocate for children, veterans, and all those in need.

Goodwill AmeriCorps Financial Empowerment Services will receive the Disability Inclusion Award. The Goodwill AmeriCorps Financial Empowerment program provides free financial literacy education, Social Security benefits education and free VITA tax preparation services to Goodwill participants and the general public. During the 2013-2014 program year the AmeriCorps team met or surpassed their individual and team objectives. Susan Logsdon, Senior Tax Specialist with the IRS, noted that the AmeriCorps team has nearly doubled the number of tax clients served through the VITA tax program since starting at Goodwill in 2012.

Rev. Erik Koepnick of Guest House of Milwaukee will receive the Volunteer Engagement Award. The Guest House of Milwaukee's volunteer program draws on the support of over 600 unique volunteers each year to enhance the varied programs and service offered to the guests and clients. Erik Koepnick, manager of communications and volunteer services, is the primary staff person tasked with coordinating the diverse volunteer population of this organization. From preparing and serving meals, working in the residential services office, to helping in the gardens, Erik strives to create meaningful experiences for each volunteer. In the dynamic daily operations at a homeless shelter, Erik has proven to be truly remarkable in assessing situations, identifying needs, and making meaningful and effective volunteer opportunities for all present.