

MEDIA ALERT

DATE: April 17, 2008

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Volunteers drive community strength: eight honored April 23 in anticipation of National Volunteer Week

SPRINGFIELD,OR - United Way of Lane County, in partnership with *The Register-Guard*, will host the annual Volunteer of the Year Awards luncheon next Wednesday at the Eugene Hilton. The event, in honor of National Volunteer Week (4/27 – 5/3/08) is the culmination of a year of encouraging and recognizing extraordinary volunteers in Lane County. In 2007 United Way volunteers provided over 90,000 hours of volunteer service to Lane County.

WHAT: Annual Volunteer of the Year Awards

WHEN: Wednesday, April 23, 2008, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

WHERE: Eugene Hilton

Wednesday's event will honor eight individuals who have proven themselves as exceptional civic citizens through the work they do to make this community healthier and stronger for everyone. Through the process of identifying and recognizing volunteers of the month featured in the Register Guard on the last Sunday of each month, the committee sets aside certain outstanding volunteers to be considered at the end of year celebration.

Three finalists in each category will be on hand at today's luncheon along with a range of community members. The winners, in seven volunteer categories, as well as overall Volunteer of the Year, to be announced are:

- **Arts & Culture**
- **Children & Youth**
- **Civic & Community**
- **Education**
- **Essentials for Life**
- **Youth**
- **Seniors**
- **VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR**

Also being recognized at this event, are the **2007 Days of Caring Volunteer Team** and **2007 Presidential Service Award recipients.**

Key to the success of volunteerism in Lane County is the support offered by the *Register-Guard's* coalition entitled "Community Leaders Together-Partners in Building a Better Future." These leading businesses sponsor a monthly "Community Solutions" page in the Register-Guard and promote volunteerism in their workplaces::

Arlie & Co.

Lane Community College

Pacific Continental Bank

PacificSource Health Plans

PeaceHealth

Selco Community Credit Union

Springfield Utility Board (SUB)

Photo and film opportunities: Prior to the luncheon, United Way representatives will be on hand for interviews. After the luncheon at 1:00, the winners will have been named and will also be available.

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