



**December 11, 2008**

**2:00 p.m.**

City Hall

1221 SW Fourth Avenue

Council Chamber, Second Floor

Portland, Oregon 97204

Office of Neighborhood Involvement  
1221 SW 4th Avenue, Room 110  
Portland, OR 97204  
503-823-4519



Mayor, Tom Potter  
Director,  
Amalia Alarcon  
de Morris

## Mayor's Message

Dear Award Recipients,

It is my honor to welcome and recognize all of you for your outstanding contributions to our City of Roses. As your Mayor and Commissioner-in-Charge for the Office of Neighborhood Involvement, I am proud to honor you for your distinguished service to our community.

This year we received many excellent and deserving nominees across all categories. This made our selection deliberations difficult, yet rewarding to learn more about the quality of residents that our city enjoys. Portland is lucky to benefit from the collective efforts of community members who strengthen and enrich our community.

Thank you for your selfless efforts to make this City among the best in the nation. Your countless volunteer hours, energy, passion and civic pride have contributed to the diversity, livability and quality of life we enjoy and revere here in Portland. On behalf of our entire City Council, I congratulate you on receiving this distinguished recognition.

Sincerely,



Mayor Tom Potter

### *Special Thanks to our Selection Committee*

Alison Stoll

Amy Trieu

Carman Corcoran

Carol Stady

Chris Byrne

Donita Fry

Elizebett Eslinger

Emily Hicks

Jean Baker

Jeremy Van Keuren

Jo Schaefer

Judith Mowry

Kelly Ball

LaShanda Hurst

Lisa Leddy

Mary Jaron Kelley

Paige Coleman

Ruthann Bedenkop

Terry Richardson

### *Special Thanks to our Photographer*

Brian Hoop

### *Event Coordinator*

Nell Wagenaar

**Please join us in the first floor light court for a reception immediately following the Award Ceremony.**

# Emergency Preparedness

## Clarence W. Harper Jr.

*Presented by Commissioner Leonard*

Clarence Harper Jr. is a leader in emergency preparedness efforts throughout the region. He operates the fire call desk at the Oregon Trail Chapter of the American Red Cross 16-32 hours each week, fielding calls from concerned neighbors, Fire Battalion Chiefs and others involved in disaster-related incidents. He is a member-in-training with the Disaster Assistance Team and is working on certification. He has been dispatched throughout the tri-county area to provide aid at disaster scenes on behalf of the Oregon Trail Chapter.

Harper was chosen as one of two Safety Officers for the National UASI Partners in Preparedness Area Citizen Corps Conference in October. He served as Safety Officer for the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Martin Luther King Day celebration this past January and will return as Safety Officer and Communications Specialist for the 24th Annual MLK Tribute in January 2009.

Harper has taught Teaching Emergency Preparedness classes at Fix-It fairs and other venues. He is a member of the Speakers Bureau giving presentations to diverse groups including the American Business Women's Association.

He organizes volunteers at Emergency Responder First Aid stations at various neighborhood Earth Day events, National Night Out venues, the Greek Orthodox Festival, Grand Floral Parade, Powell Butte Controlled Burn Exercise, and TOPOFF4 drills.

Harper is a mental health professional and provides in-home care for people. He is certified in CPR and first aid and is an active NET member. As such, he has participated in rodeos, search and rescue training, various drills, classes and is currently training to become a HAM Radio operator and Communication Coordinator.

# Emergency Preparedness

## Laurelhurst NET

*Presented by Commissioner Leonard*

The Laurelhurst Neighborhood Emergency Team was founded in 1995 as part of a city wide program to train citizens to be first responders. The roster has grown to 32 members. They have contributed over 400 hours in training, education and community service this past year.

NET teams are citizen volunteers trained by the Portland Fire Bureau to be first responders in their neighborhoods in case of major emergencies—earthquakes, landslides, floods, etc. Their mission is two-fold: to protect lives and property and to show the public how to “Be Prepared.”

The team is constantly training and taking refresher classes. Team members also offer education on surviving a disaster. Members meet with neighbors, clubs or groups of people, and show how to be prepared for any emergency: making a plan—what to do and how to do it; making a kit—preparing for at least 72 hours; and getting trained— knowing how to protect yourself, family and neighbors.

Team members also write a “NETworking” column in the Laurelhurst Neighborhood Newsletter, covering safety issues from home problems to weather and natural disasters. They also belong to various other organizations such as Red Cross, Neighbor Watch, and Medical Corp. Membership is open to anyone 14 or older who lives in Portland. The team also participated in the National TOPOFF drill last fall. Some members helped with the winter floods and warming centers. They also help staff First Aid booths for Rose Parade, MLK Day, Greek Festival and other events.

# Welcome!

The Mayor, the City Council and the Office of Neighborhood Involvement welcome you to the 2008 Spirit of Portland Awards Ceremony, a rich city tradition dating back to 1985.

The Spirit of Portland Awards are presented each year to those who have made positive contributions to our city and neighborhoods above and beyond the average volunteer or staff commitment. This ceremony provides the City the opportunity to recognize the importance of community involvement in shaping the livability of Portland.

Since 1985, a total of 381 Spirit of Portland Awards have been given to individuals, businesses, city employees, and community organizations to honor the importance of volunteer involvement in our community.

This year, 30 Award recipients are being added to this honored list of groups and individuals who have worked so diligently to improve the quality of life in Portland, making it one of the best cities in the nation.

The Selection Committee this year consisted of representatives from the Mayor and City Commissioner's offices, Neighborhood Coalition offices, representatives from the business community and community at large, staff members from the Office of Neighborhood Involvement, and past award winners. The Mayor's Spirit of Portland Awards were chosen by Mayor Tom Potter.

The Selection Committee evaluated 81 nominations to select this year's 21 winners. It was no easy task considering the quality of all the nominees.

Winners were evaluated on five criteria— how they:

- Assisted in the implementation of outstanding projects
- Enriched and revitalized our community and neighborhoods
- Provided the community with a special service
- Demonstrated responsiveness, creativity and civic values
- Raised cross-cultural awareness

Thank you for joining us today to honor this year's Spirit of Portland Award recipients. A reception in the Atrium downstairs will follow the ceremony. Enjoy!

## Mayor's Award

### Rebecca Black

*Presented by Mayor Potter*

Rebecca Black founded Oregon Outreach, Inc. (OOI) in 1988, serving as its Executive Director since its founding. Ms. Black has worked tirelessly to establish accredited, comprehensive education programs for students who face serious barriers to education such as language, being a teen parent, behavior, poverty, drugs and alcohol and gang issues. She has received numerous national honors and recognitions.

For the past two years, OOI has received funding from the Mayor's Office for Youth Violence Prevention to offer a summer program to students from area high schools who are at-risk of not returning to school after summer break. This program has been highly successful in fully engaging participants for the entire summer and assisting in transitioning them in returning to their home school. The success has been so great that the Mayor's office is funding OOI to provide a year-round outreach program to youth at-risk of gang involvement.

Today, OOI has five schools serving ten districts in the metro Portland area. Its primary focus is students who have dropped out of school or who are at-risk of dropping out. These students, who have not found success in a traditional school setting, are succeeding through Oregon Outreach school programs because of their strong academic component, counseling support, parenting program, and multiple opportunities for community service.

## Mayor's Award

### Sgt. Frank Gorgone

*Presented by Mayor Potter*

Sergeant Frank "Bob" Gorgone, a member of the Portland Police Bureau since 1992, is a passionate advocate for gang resistance programs. Before coming to the Police Bureau, Gorgone was a member of the United States Coast Guard from 1982-1986 and a second generation police officer in the Newton, Massachusetts police department from 1987-1992. He became a Gang Resistance Education and Training (GREAT) instructor in 1995 and has been its regional administrator for the last three years.

GREAT is a federally sponsored program aimed at getting officers into school classrooms to talk with young people about making good choices. Sergeant Gorgone has taught 44 classes reaching 1,629 students. He was nationally recognized after his appointment to the National Training Team in 1998. Sergeant Gorgone has promoted and helped implement GREAT programs in communities throughout the western United States.

Sergeant Gorgone's advocacy is one of the reasons almost 40,000 Portland Public Schools students have benefited from the GREAT Program. His energy is conveyed to more than 50 police officers who deliver the curriculum. His expertise is routinely called upon by the national GREAT office housed at the Department of Justice on topics ranging from curriculum development to grant application scoring and peer review.

In recognition of his achievements as leader of Portland's GREAT program, his contributions to the program, and his endless energy and advocacy for GREAT, Sergeant Frank "Bob" Gorgone is a worthy recipient of the Spirit of Portland Award.

## Small Business

### Richard Kiely

*Presented by Mayor-elect Adams*

Richard Kiely, owner of Home Run Graphics, has volunteered his time, resources and skills to help build a stronger community in Southeast Portland. He exemplifies business partnering with the local community to provide more livable and safer neighborhoods through fun and entertainment.

He and his company have been involved with numerous events including the East Portland Chamber of Commerce's Golf Tournament; the Fun on Foster event; the 82nd Ave of Roses Parade; the PCC International Days; and the Portland Teen Idol project that includes 350 teens from all over the city and from varied cultural backgrounds. He shows his pride in all of them as if they were his own children.

He stepped up and raised \$1,000 for the Mt. Hood Little League when their equipment was stolen and is a fund raiser for the Youth Missions at Faith Center Christian Church.

Kiely is well-known for donating funds and time to produce the Big Screen of the Green movies in the parks that brought together 31,000 Portlanders who enjoyed free entertainment in their own neighborhood this summer without having to get in their cars.

He regularly participates in park cleanups in the Brentwood-Darlington area and was a key player—shovel in hand with his wife Gail and other neighborhood leaders—in the building of Hazeltine Park for less than \$26,000.

Kiely believes in Portland and in his neighborhood. His unselfish contributions truly help make this city shine.

## Neighborhood

### South Portland Neighborhood Assn.

*Presented by Commissioner Leonard*

South Portland Neighborhood Association (SPNA) consists of six communities: Corbett, Terwilliger, Lair Hill, Johns Landing, South Waterfront, and Fulton and is very dedicated to serving its community.

In 2007, SPNA had a vision of holding summer concerts at Willamette Park. Association members raised enough money for two concerts, and thought they would try for four in 2008.

SPNA raised \$12,000 from local businesses and sponsors in 2008. Approximately 3,000 neighbors and others attended these concerts. Another 500 people attended National Neighborhood Night Out, which included children's activities, music and dancing, appearances by firemen, policemen, a potluck and barbeque.

SPNA wrote a grant and designed, printed and mailed a neighborhood newsletter to every resident. This newsletter let everyone know the people who make up their neighborhood association, what issues they were working on, how residents could become involved, and informed them of upcoming events.

SPNA worked with businesses and gave their support to the formation of a much-needed business association. Together, they have sponsored events and today over 70 businesses belong to the South Portland Business Association.

## Large Business

### **Opus Northwest Foundation** *Presented by Commissioner Saltzman*

Giving back to the community is a core Opus value. Opus Northwest and the Opus Foundation provide communities with philanthropic gifts and volunteer labor focusing primarily on children and families. In the past year, 27 Opus NW employees have dedicated themselves in providing the Portland community with numerous philanthropic services.

Accomplishments in 2008 include donations and over 200 volunteer hours to:

- S.M.A.R.T. (Start Making A Reader Today)
- Oregon Historical Society
- American Cancer Society
- Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
- Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation
- Head Start classroom improvements (James John Elementary and Applegate School)
- Rebuilding Together (Sunnyside Children's Club and Sunnyside Church/Community Annex)
- Couch Park Improvements
- Bridgetown Book Drive (raised over 8,000 books for in-class libraries)

Opus NW is also very proud of its work with Richmond Elementary, which consisted of funding and building new playground structures that had an immediate transformational effect on the school and neighborhood as a whole. Their mission is to create great real estate today and in the future. Their commitment is to help make the communities where we do business better places to play, work, and raise families.

## Small Business

### **NW Resource Federal Credit Union** *Presented by Mayor-elect Adams*

Northwest Resource Federal Credit Union is chartered to provide financial services for people who live and work in Portland's central city neighborhoods; yet they are doing more than simply providing financial services because they recognized critical needs in their neighborhood. Northwest Resource is committed to improving the financial well-being of the people and businesses in the Old Town-Chinatown neighborhood and improve its vitality.

The credit union has designed basic financial education classes which they volunteer to teach twice each month to clients of Central City Concern's Workforce program. The employees of Northwest Resource work one-on-one with individuals who are recovering from homelessness and poverty to teach them how to build a basic budget, balance their checkbook, and build and establish credit.

Northwest Resource also supports Portland's emerging artists by providing free "gallery space" in their office and hosting First Thursday art shows each month for local artists. These shows have helped to revitalize Old Town-Chinatown by bringing more people into the neighborhood while expanding cultural awareness through the variety of art displayed. Some of the shows this year included Chinese art, animal art which raised funds for Dove Lewis, international photography, and works from a variety of other local Portland artists.

Northwest Resource employees hold committee positions in the Association, Sustainable Business Network, and Business Association, volunteering for a better community.

## Mayor's Award

### **Stephen Manning**

*Presented by Mayor Potter*

Stephen Manning exhibits selfless dedication to protecting the rights of immigrants on a local and national level.

Stephen graduated cum laude with a law degree from Northwestern School of Law at Lewis and Clark College. Since his graduation he has chaired numerous immigration boards and panels.

Stephen regularly participates with local community organizations sharing information and support for individuals trapped in the complex web of immigration law. For individuals who are in fear and who have experienced often forceful and unanticipated separation from their families, Stephen and his law firm, the Immigrant Law Group, represent a source of support and relief helping them navigate a complex legal system.

After the Del Monte raid in 2007, the firm coordinated legal strategy for the humane treatment of the impacted individuals and collaborated with the many amazing lawyers in Oregon and Washington who provided free screening, case assistance, and court representation on individual cases. Presently, the firm is active in coordinating United States Supreme Court litigation on a range of immigration related issues.

Stephen's mantra: "It's about the person, not the process," exemplifies how seriously he takes his mission to litigate cases on all judiciary levels to improve the rights and treatment of immigrants, refugees, and their families in Oregon.

## Mayor's Award

### **Russ Ryan**

*Presented by Mayor Potter*

Russ Ryan is a volunteer with the Mayor's Office. He began volunteering there after retiring from a career in the Bureau of Land Management (1979-2000). He is a graduate of Portland State University (1971).

Russ started with the Mayor's Office in early 2003, during the Katz administration, working with Public Advocate Michael Mock.

His thoroughness and patience led to his managing the Mayor's Opinion Line, a telephone "soapbox" for Portland's residents who wish to express any and all of their concerns.

Week in and week out, Russ diligently transcribed every word of the Opinion Line and reported it back to the Mayor's staff. Russ also returned the phone calls of many residents who leave messages, calmly listening to their concerns and providing them with helpful information.

Russ continued as a volunteer throughout the Potter administration. Russ plays a crucial role in keeping the Mayor's Office informed of public opinion—a difficult job for which he asks nothing in return.

The Mayor's Office is proud to honor him and present him the 2008 Mayor's Spirit of Portland Award.



## Mayor's Award

### Last Thursday Planning Committee *Presented by Mayor-elect Adams*

The Last Thursday event on NE Alberta has grown so popular over the last 11 years that sidewalks have no longer been able to contain the attendees. The result has been an unsafe environment for pedestrians, buses, and drivers. However, one month after the City of Portland stepped in, safety was restored and the event ran much more smoothly under a pilot project temporarily closing Alberta street to traffic. Without City staff Jeri Jenkins from the Portland Office of Transportation (PDOT), Stephanie Reynolds from the Office of Neighborhood Involvement (ONI), and Lieutenant William Walker from the Portland Police Bureau, this turnaround would not have happened. Each went above and beyond to coordinate a solution for the Last Thursday street event.

Stephanie, ONI's Crime Prevention manager, identified stakeholders and organized community meetings. Jeri worked with a wide array of neighbors to satisfy street closure requirements, working with PDOT to notify businesses on Alberta and organize a previously unorganized event. Will organized support officers and imparted his considerable event expertise. The officers set a tone that respected the spirit of Last Thursday while providing prevention and enforcement for a safer event.

Because of the dynamic work of these individuals crossing intercultural and neighborhood lines, the nationally recognized Alberta Arts District has become a safer, more inclusive environment for vendors, entertainers, art patrons and families. The community is now working with neighbors and preparing for a successful 2009 season.

## Mayor's Award

### p:ear *Presented by Commissioner Fish*

p:ear builds relationships with homeless and transitional youth, ages 15 to 24, through education, art and recreation to affirm personal worth and create meaningful and healthy lives. Their program serves more than 500 homeless and transitional young people each year.

To truly exit homelessness, kids must develop internal strength, skills and the foresight necessary to make healthy choices. p:ear provides a safe, non-judgmental environment where youth are trusted to outgrow unproductive and harmful behaviors. p:ear offers individualized mentoring and education programs in a reliable and intimate setting designed to foster trust and build self-esteem. p:ear teaches homeless and transitional kids that they are valuable individuals who have something vital to contribute to the community.

p:ear staff and volunteers serve as mentors, friends, and role models, while p:ear's unique programs create opportunities for young people to grow intellectually, express themselves constructively, communicate in positive ways and engage in meaningful interactions with the larger community of Portland. This is a process that requires patience and trust that takes years to cultivate and requires enormous dedication to sustain.

## Non-Profit Organization

### Street Roots

*Presented by Commissioner Fish*

Street Roots, a local non-profit newspaper, creates income opportunities for people experiencing homelessness and poverty by publishing a newspaper that is a catalyst for individual and social change. The newspaper is not only an award-winning, independent journalistic venue but also provides a means for the homeless and very low income individuals to begin earning a living. The newspaper project fosters a sense of personal worth for individuals, while offering relationship-building across class lines.

Started in 1998, Street Roots is a biweekly street newspaper serving more than 200 individuals experiencing homelessness and poverty who sell the newspaper throughout the Portland region. Of the \$1 per copy sale price, 75 cents goes to the vendor. The newspaper seeks to educate, advocate and provide a voice for a growing population. Street Roots also produces the Rose City Resource Directory.

Street Roots, a member of the North American Street Newspapers Association, is looked to as a model for community building and information. Its part-time staff is recognized for its work, winning awards for both journalistic and social service successes.

The newspaper also offers dialogue about important issues facing our community. It delivers in-depth reporting on a broad range of issues affecting Portlanders. They provide a voice for segments of our population who otherwise go unheard through poetry, news articles, and commentary. "We give voice to the powerless," say Street Roots staff.

## Employee Volunteer

### Jeri Williams

*Presented by Mayor-elect Adams*

Jeri Williams, a survivor of prostitution, has been a Portland community activist for the last 14 years. She organizes and does public presentations on environmental justice, poverty, peace, domestic violence and many other social justice issues. She serves on several boards, task forces and grant-making committees.

As a program coordinator with the Office of Neighborhood Involvement, Jeri manages the contract for the Diversity and Civic Leadership projects, which fund organizations of color and immigrant/refugee groups to teach their constituencies organizing and civic engagement with the City of Portland. She is a member of the Klamath tribe, a mother and a grandmother.

Last year, while giving a domestic violence presentation to the Montavilla Neighborhood, Jeri was able to share some of her experiences as a former prostitute on 82<sup>nd</sup> Ave. and explain the dismal plight of sex workers. As neighbors were dealing with the issue of increased prostitution in their neighborhoods, they decided they would organize a summit to discuss solutions and asked Jeri to put a human face on the issue. What resulted was two summits with many interested groups joining in the discussion and the creation of a quarter million-dollar fund to address the lack of services for sex workers including drug and self-esteem counseling, job training, and help for their families.

Jeri knows life on the mean side of the street and has been working tirelessly for social justice ever since. "She has a huge heart for service," said her friend, State Sen. Avel Gordly.

## Outstanding Partner

### Hoopin' It Up

*Presented by Commissioner Leonard*

Hoopin' It Up has been a gift to low income kids in Southwest Portland and shows the benefit of forging strategic partnerships in our city. The Housing Authority of Portland's (HAP) Hillsdale Terrace and Slavin Court housing complexes are home to some of Portland's most economically challenged and culturally diverse families. Unlike many living in surrounding Southwest Portland, these families cannot afford quality summer recreation for their sons and daughters.

To help address this inequality, HAP, Portland Police Bureau (PPB), Camp Rosenbaum, Basketball Institute Inc., Southwest Neighborhoods Inc. and the Office of Neighborhood Involvement's Crime Prevention Program partnered together to form Hoopin' It Up. Its goal was not only to provide children with summer time activity, but also to teach kids about leadership, hard work, team spirit, respect for their peers, and how to build a strong sense of community.

In August, Hoopin' It Up completed its second camp with 35 children able to take part in the four-day event. The 2008 camp was expanded to include a writing component, track and field training, and more GREAT (Gang Resistance Education And Training) Program curriculum. During camp lunch hours, motivational speakers came to talk about public safety, school, and the importance of community.

The camp ended with a "Family Fun Night" event for all of the residents of both of the two complexes (over 300 in all). It included a BBQ, entertainment, and an awards ceremony for the campers in front of their families, friends, and representatives from SWNI, PBB, and more.

## Non-Profit Organization

### Sisters of the Road

*Presented by Commissioner Leonard*

Since 1979, Sisters of The Road has provided a safe place for everyone, especially women and children, offered nourishing meals at little cost or in exchange for labor, and offered employment experience to local residents. In 2008, Sisters' cafe met an increased demand for meals, serving a meal a minute to individuals and families. Sisters served 25 more meals per day (371 on average) than the year before.

Sisters' Civic Action Group, made up of people who have experienced homelessness, registered over 400 people to vote, and provided voter educational opportunities through two mayor and council candidate forums. One of them was attended by 13 candidates and hundreds of people experiencing homelessness. Sisters also held a Town Hall meeting on homelessness with Senator Avel Gordly.

Sisters' Research Project was chosen by the Portland State University's Capstone Program which donated more than \$30,000 worth of expert service to put Sisters' database online in a user-friendly format. The database, featuring first-hand stories of 515 people who have experienced homelessness, is now at [www.sistersoftheroad.org/voices](http://www.sistersoftheroad.org/voices).

Sisters shared its philosophy of nonviolence by providing eight trainings to groups which included Portland Patrol, KBOO Community Radio, Human Solutions, Inc., and PSU. Sisters followed its philosophy of inclusivity when creating its 2008-2013 Five Year Plan with input from customers, neighbors, donors, volunteers, staff and board. Over 100 customer surveys and a customer focus group informed the plan, which will guide all Sisters' work. For more information on any of these projects, go to [www.sistersoftheroad.org](http://www.sistersoftheroad.org) or email [info@sistersoftheroad.org](mailto:info@sistersoftheroad.org).

## Mayor's Award

### The Standard

*Presented by Commissioner Fish*

In 1906, when Leo Samuel founded the Portland company that would become The Standard, he also began a tradition of philanthropy rooted in a commitment to build lasting relationships with the community. This commitment is as strong today as it was a century ago, nurtured over the years by the people of The Standard.

In 2008, employees and retirees donated more than \$600,000 to hundreds of nonprofit organizations here in Portland and across the nation. The Standard matched these gifts dollar-for-dollar, doubling their impact. Its employees are also prolific volunteers, logging thousands of community service hours each year. In fact, The Standard offers employees up to 8 hours of company-paid time off to volunteer each year.

The Standard's corporate giving program and The Standard Charitable Foundation in 2007 contributed more than \$1 million to Oregon nonprofit partners supporting education, arts and culture, community development, and people with disabilities.

The Standard embraces sustainable business practices. They earned LEED gold certification for our Tanasbourne location and are working for those same certifications at our Standard Plaza building in downtown Portland. The Standard also partnered with car-sharing company Zipcar and the City of Portland this year to help alleviate congestion and pollution in our downtown.

The philosophy of its community involvement is shaped by the same attributes that help make The Standard a leader in financial services: integrity, commitment and doing things differently.

## Mayor's Award

### Africa AIDS Response

*Presented by Mayor Potter*

Africa AIDS Response is a program established under the Portland-Mutare Sister City Association. The program was developed to support the urgent grassroots effort to combat the spread of AIDS and to treat AIDS victims in Portland's Sister City of Mutare, Zimbabwe.

Using the power of local action and mobilizing the generosity of Portlanders, the program raises money which goes directly to supporting grassroots AIDS agencies, projects and health clinics. The program, through its funding efforts, raises awareness of the AIDS epidemic in Africa, and the efforts of the African people to manage the epidemic.

This program provides the citizens of Portland with a unique opportunity for direct personal involvement, and an efficient vehicle to ensure their donations make it to impacted individuals. Their work has touched the lives of thousands of people in Zimbabwe.

This local effort is well deserving of the Mayor's Spirit of Portland Award of 2008.

## Mayor's Award

### Larry Collins

*Presented by Mayor Potter*

Larry Collins is a native of Portland. He is a father, husband and community activist. However, Larry was not always the engaged citizen who we see today.

Once upon a time, Mr. Collins was known more as "Larry the drug dealer." Larry saw few opportunities around him, but did see many people addicted to drugs and others who profited from those addictions.

Larry grew and matured as a person, rededicated his life, and set out on the mission to right his wrongs and rebuild the community that he helped to tear apart.

Mr. Collins, is founder and president of People Of Purpose and Associates (POPA), the volunteer chairperson of Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods' Public Safety Action Committee, and volunteers with On the Block ministries, Right Way ministries and Cornerstone Community Services. He has previously been recognized by the Office of Neighborhood Involvement. For the past three years, POPA has sponsored a neighborhood clean-up, and free community lunch and concert. POPA's motto is: stop pointing a finger and lend a hand! Recently, Mr. Collins was contacted by the Oprah Winfrey Show to consider doing a segment about POPA.

Citizens like Larry make Portland the wonderful place that it is, full of opportunities for redemption and a place for everyone who wishes to see things improve. It is Mr. Collins' determination to progress as well as his willingness to roll up his sleeves and lend a hand that make him a very deserving recipient of the Mayor's Spirit of Portland Award.

## Public Involvement

### Loretta Young

*Presented by Commissioner Saltzman*

Loretta Young has worked tirelessly on social economic issues in the minority, Women's and Emerging Small Business contracting arena and has helped put people to work in the community through workforce training programs.

Loretta, Supervisor of the team responsible for minority and women participation on city construction and professional services contracts in the City's Bureau of Purchases, is a mentor for other bureau directors and community members. She helps firms grow capacity, create jobs and plant roots in the community. She also helps first-time job seekers through apprenticeship programs watching them get their first paycheck and provide for their families.

She volunteers her time with the Women in Trades program helping women find jobs in the construction field. This impacts not only women in our community but school-aged kids throughout the state stimulating their interest in construction jobs.

Loretta moved to Portland in 1984, and began working with City in 1985 in the office of then Commissioner Margaret Strachan as an administrative secretary, then moved to Commissioner Earl Blumenauer's office as an aide working on constituent issues, and finally to the Bureau of Purchases where she began as Equal Employment Opportunity coordinator for the City.

Loretta served as a member of the Charter Review Commission, is a member of the Native American, Hispanic, Asian and Black Chambers of Commerce, and represents the City at many community events and trade fairs. She is also a member of the Leadership Forum, a group dedicated to the mentorship of young African-Americans.

## Community Harmony

### Gloria McMurtry

*Presented by Mayor-elect Adams*

Gloria McMurtry has owned and managed Reflections Coffeehouse since it began. When the doors opened 13 years ago, the area was known for drugs and high crime. Reflections and the other businesses in Walnut Park Retail center at the corner of NE Killingsworth and Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd have made it a viable retail location where residents can feel safe and shop for various goods and services. Reflections is a true coffeehouse or community "square" where people from different cultures and various persuasions can congregate and discuss politics, neighborhood issues, and "solve the world's problems."

Reflections has been a primary place where the Mayor and other politicians and law-makers have held discussions and met with neighborhood residents. Many organizations such as the National Association of Black Veterans and the Black Artist Consortium have had their beginning at Reflections. It served as an interim or "secondary" location for the Obama Northeast headquarters during the Presidential campaign.

The special service that Reflections provides is that "open door" policy which creates an inviting environment where folks can gather to hear the news from their neighbors, express their opinions, and reflect on the day's events. Reflections not only provides a special retail service but serves as an excellent community builder.

## Community Harmony

### Norm Costa

*Presented by Commissioner Fish*

Norm Costa is a powerful voice for underserved populations throughout the city. He has worked with volunteer groups, city bureaus, the police department and police officer's union, and religious institutions to bring a diverse community together to work to make Portland a safe place for everyone. Norm has been a tireless advocate for the needs of youth, the sexual minority community, and people living with HIV and AIDS.

When some people would have simply given up and written off relations between Portland's police department and the sexual minority community, Norm worked within the system to educate officers. He has endeavored to improve the relationship between the city's police agency and the sexual minority community through his participation on the Sexual Minority Round Table. He has served community members through his work with the Coalition Against Hate Crimes, advocating for the needs of crime victims, witnesses, and Portland Police Officers responding to hate crimes.

Through the Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network of Oregon, Norm has worked to provide safe schools for all youth. He has also been a voice for educating incarcerated youth. Norm champions the compassionate values of Portland including projects that work toward HIV prevention and caring for people living with AIDS. A volunteer leader with Metropolitan Community Church, Norm champions greater visibility of people of faith in the community and is helping to plan the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the historic MCC building in October, 2009.

Helping people see eye to eye isn't a job for Norm, it's a calling!



## Community Policing

**Sgt. John Anderson, Officer Greg Baldwin** *Presented by Com. Saltzman*

In the true spirit of community policing, Sgt. John Anderson and Officer Greg Baldwin saw a need and they filled it. They converted an empty office space into a neighborhood police contact office where residents could meet with police, find community resources and provide a safe place for officers patrolling the area to eat lunch, write reports, and meet with neighbors.

With the generosity of the Rossi family, who leases the space to the Police Bureau for \$1 a year, the officers spent many months of off-duty time to transform the vacant space into a welcoming community contact office.

Situated at NE Sandy Blvd and 111<sup>th</sup> Ave. in an area that has seen drugs, prostitution and other illegal activity over the years, the office serves residents and businesses in special ways. First, the presence of more police officers stopping at the office has fostered a safer feeling in the community. Second, neighbors are becoming part of the all-volunteer office staffed by Elders in Action and becoming more involved in their community. And last, businesses have gotten involved donating goods and services for the office renovation project.

As one of the Elder's in Action volunteers puts it so well, the new neighborhood contact office "is an opportunity to put a face to a badge." Once fertile farmland, the Parkrose community has grown into a culturally rich and diverse community. With an investment of time and resources, and their gift of collaboration, Sgt. John Anderson and Officer Greg Baldwin have created a legacy that will live on in this community for years.

## Youth

**George Wolff**

*Presented by Mayor-elect Adams*

George Wolff is a student, an accomplished classical guitarist, and a dedicated volunteer. He is a shining star at Hospice Care of the Northwest where he provides the comfort and beauty of music to those in their final journey. He has been a tremendous asset with the launch of the Hospice Music Program, always willing and able to visit patients despite his busy school schedule.

George, 17, provides a caring, compassionate presence as well as musical enjoyment for the dying in our community. Those facing the end of life find it an easier journey with George's musical contributions. Playing classical guitar for Hospice patients and the facilities where they live, George travels throughout the Multnomah County area and holds concerts in community rooms and dining areas, serving numerous families. In addition, he has performed one-on-one for patients in their rooms who are unable to attend the main concert.

George plays beautifully and shares his knowledge of the songs he plays with his audience, engaging them in the musical experience. He is an excellent classical guitarist and has won numerous awards, including 1st place winner in the 2007 OSSA State Music Championships, and the 89.9 All Classical Radio Young Talent Search in 2005 at the age of just 13.

George is also a dedicated student and National Honor Society Member. He has a passion for mathematics, and plans to study astrophysics when he begins college in 2009.

## Humanitarian

**Stephen Ying**

*Presented by Commissioner Saltzman*

A man of heart and passion, Stephen Ying has been an activist in the Portland community for many years. His efforts range from raising money for the American Red Cross in support of the earthquake in China to working with Travel Portland to promote our city as a destination for Chinese tourist and investors. Stephen stands for change and progress. He invests and provides his time freely for the betterment of the community.

His service includes membership on: the Board of Directors of Portland Kaohsiung Sister City; the Board of Directors of the Portland Chinese Gardens; Old Town-Chinatown Neighborhood Association; Old Town-Chinatown, Business Association; the Old Town-Chinatown Vision Committee; the Advisory Committee with the Central Portland Police precinct; and the Advisory Committee for the Urban Renewal River District.

Also, Stephen served as the President of the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association from 2004-2006 and is currently serving as its Executive Director. He is also the President of the Chinese American Citizens Alliance, Bing Kong Association, and United Chinese Alliance.

Stephen's activism has focused on promoting and preserving Chinese heritage, sponsoring youth service and scholarships, engaging in charitable activities, advocating for small businesses, providing social service for the community, and most importantly, act as a liaison for the Chinese community. Recognized and trusted by many community organizations as well as civic and governmental agencies, Stephen brings open communication, responsiveness and participation throughout our community for a better and more enjoyable Portland.

## Humanitarian

**Michael Eagan**

*Presented by Commissioner Saltzman*

Living from birth with cerebral palsy, Michael Eagan was taught by his family that there was nothing he couldn't do. The belief that each member of the family had a responsibility to reach out and care for those in need has led Michael to a life of service to the community.

During his 40 year career in state service, he developed the case management and networking skills that have allowed him to excel in his volunteer service since retiring in 1999.

In 2003, Michael began working for Elders in Action as a personal advocate for seniors, and in 2006 was elected to the commission.

During the past year in his current role as advocacy coordinator, he set up meetings with individual elected officials from Portland City Council, the Board of Multnomah County Commissioners, members of the State Legislature and members of Oregon's Congressional Delegation to emphasize the needs of seniors.

He also serves on the county Disability Services Advisory Council, Mid-county District Senior Center Advisory Committee, and the Oregon State Council of Retired Citizens. As a representative of these agencies, and as a disabled senior citizen, he testifies frequently at public hearings at all levels.

In addition to his "official" volunteer roles, friends and family members know they can count on Michael Eagan to listen to their personal challenges and help them find the services they need.

## Community Crime Prevention

### Carl Leonard Roberts

*Presented by Commissioner Fish*

Carl Roberts, the “guardian angel” of Old Town-Chinatown, works daily to disrupt illegal street activity and provide safe passage for visitors. He is also a staunch advocate for the homeless and those in crisis through his work with the Day Drop In Center, Transition Project Inc., the Women’s Crisis Line and the Blanchet House of Hospitality. The rest of the time, he works on his recovery.

In 2007 Roberts stationed himself on the corner of Portland Development Commission’s office at NW Fifth and Everett most every morning to greet visitors and move them safely through a corridor of intimidating people frequently engaged in drug deals. Carl is an imposing figure with his feathered beret, orange safety vest and beard. His daily visible and vocal presence created a clear path for employees and visitors to get into PDC. He called police and social service agencies when necessary and provided that extra set of “eyes on the street”—all in exchange for a morning cup of coffee from the PDC coffee pot.

He continues to be a greeter with a friendly smile and tip of his hat providing direction to the lost and confused, information on where to find food and social services to those in need and advice to friends and strangers alike. Carl, who sits on the Old Town-Chinatown Neighborhood Association Board and Public Safety Committee, knows just about everyone, their story, and where they live.

Carl’s community involvement and street savvy has decreased crime and helped visitors feel welcome and safe. His commitment personifies the Spirit of Portland.

## Independent Spirit

### Coalition for a Livable Future

*Presented by Commissioner Fish*

The Coalition for a Livable Future (CLF), unites more than 90 diverse nonprofits, business, and hundreds of individuals to promote healthy and sustainable communities.

CLF, which offers a comprehensive, regional approach to creating a livable future for all populations, is at the crossroads of environmental, economic and social justice issues. Its projects have included:

- The Regional Equity Atlas which maps equity conditions in the Portland metro area in terms of parks, schools, housing, etc. It also examines data that shows inequity in nature and parks access, as well as gaps in housing opportunities for people of color
- Engaging Metro and the public in discussions about where our region should go in the next 50 years and how to increase public involvement
- Shift the Balance, a regional transportation study that offered alternatives in the Columbia River Crossing project
- Housing advocacy through Affordable Housing NOW and increasing funding statewide

“We work on a future that will serve our families and neighbors for generations to come,” say Coalition staff.

## Independent Spirit

### Rev. Frederick Woods

*Presented by Commissioner Leonard*

Rev. Frederick Woods, a native Oregonian, has a passion for humanity and lives to serve those in need. Rising above his own past challenges and his recent medical illness, his welcoming smile and warm embrace helps him serve the city’s most high-risk individuals including gang affiliated youth, the homeless, the mentally ill and those suffering from drug and alcohol addictions.

He is founder and Pastor of the Calvary Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), a former president of Young Peoples Willing Workers for the State of Oregon Churches of God in Christ, Hospital staff Chaplain for Kaiser Permanente, Clinical Case Coordinator for the Center For Community Mental Health, and founder & Executive Director for the Positive Youth Development Program.

He works with a number of state partners on a re-entry model for individuals returning to their communities from prison. Under his leadership Rev. Woods established MACE (The Mallory Ave Community Enrichment Center), a mixed-use facility offering a number of programs, social services to individuals, youth and families in the northeast and inner north corridor. The center hosts the October-March homeless shelter providing hot meals and clothing two nights a week. During freezing winter nights, Rev. Woods and Calvary congregation open the center every evening offering space for up to 80 individuals.

He also volunteers on the Executive Board of Boys Scouts of America, the Citizen Review Board (Oregon Youth Authorities), is a North Portland Bible College board member and a staff Professor of Urban Ministries involved in Face-to-Face relief to Haiti and taking four mission trips to West Africa, Haiti, Port Au Rico, and Honduras.

## Independent Spirit

### Linda Robinson

*Presented by Commissioner Saltzman*

Linda Robinson is a retiree with more civic projects than you can imagine. Her passion for civic engagement developed when she began volunteering during a mid-life career change 20 years ago. Early experiences as a founding member of the Columbia Slough Watershed Council and her work with the Naturescaping for Clean Rivers Program, demonstrated the importance of citizen involvement—the earlier, the better. She advocates tirelessly for good process.

While Linda has many volunteer interests (the airport, urban renewal, local elections, water quality, tree preservation, invasive species), her work has focused on parks. As a founding member of the East Portland Parks Coalition, she works knowledgeably and advocates effectively for East Portland parks and open space. Linda chairs the City Wide Parks Team, the Parks Committee for the Hazelwood Neighborhood Association, and the Parks Subcommittee for the Gateway Urban Renewal area. She served on Metro’s Greenspaces Policy Advisory Committee and committed countless hours to successful bond measure campaigns. She has served on numerous other park committees, including budget, master plan, ParkScan, skate park siting committees and the Parks SDC Update Task Force. Linda is not just a meeting attendee; she takes initiative, accepts responsibility, and follows through.

Community building is another focus for her—creating places and events that bring together diverse groups such as Concerts at Ventura Park and a Community Garden at the Hazelwood HydroPark. Linda is also spearheading work on **Gateway Green**, which will provide much-needed green space, a re-branding tool and community gathering place for East Portland.