



## Metropolitan Family Service

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### MEDIA ADVISORY

April 25, 2007

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“Grandma Sybil” Barker receives Volunteer of the Year Award for her work as a Foster Grandparent Volunteer.

- WHAT:** Annual Volunteer Award
- WHO:** **Metropolitan Family Service**
- WHEN:** Thursday, April 19, 2007
- HOW:** Metropolitan Family Service Annual Volunteer Recognition Event Award Ceremony
- WHY:** *Because together, we can do more.*

Portland, Oregon, April 25, 2007— Foster Grandparent Volunteer, Sybil Barker, was named Metropolitan Family Service, Volunteer of the Year. Sybil, who is now 84 years old, lives in North East Portland. She has been a volunteer with Metropolitan Family Service, Foster Grandparent Program for 20 years. Her dedication and service have touched all of those who have worked with her during her 13 years at Waverly House and 7 years at Providence Child Center.

“Grandma Sybil” as she is known to children and staff at Providence, began her work with the Foster Grandparent program when personal losses changed her life. Looking for a way to connect with others and use her experience and nurturing skills, Grandma Sybil took on some extraordinary challenges. At Waverly Children’s Home, she often worked the evening shift, helping young victims of child abuse get ready for bed. Her bedtime stories created a magical opportunity for healing and recovery.

STRENGTHENING  
FAMILIES AND  
INDIVIDUALS  
WHILE ENHANCING  
THEIR PARTICIPATION  
IN COMMUNITY LIFE

Grandma Sybil works with children with complex medical needs and profound disabilities at the Center for Medically Fragile Children at Providence Child Center. Few of these children are able to communicate, but most respond to her gentle tone and caring touch.

(See Photos Attached)

## **Background Information**

**About Metropolitan Family Service (MFS):** For more than half a century, Metropolitan Family Service has played a vital role in the lives of children, families, and older adults in the Portland area. We provide services at more than 100 sites, including more than 80 schools. Metropolitan Family Service's skilled and caring volunteers contribute more than 132,000 hours annually in the tri-county area. For more information visit [www.metfamily.org](http://www.metfamily.org).

A video featuring our Volunteer of the Year, Sybil Barker can be accessed at:

<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-4080133223075672950>

Contact Pat Kaczmarek, Marketing & Communications Manager, at 503.232.0007, ext. 170 or [patk@metfamily.org](mailto:patk@metfamily.org) for a dvd copy of the video for broadcast purposes.

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