



Metropolitan Family Service

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Metropolitan Family Service Presents 2010 Volunteer Awards

Portland, OR—April 13, 2010—Metropolitan Family Service (MFS) volunteer Mabel Hall will be named Metropolitan Family Service *Volunteer of the Year*. The award will be presented at the Annual Volunteer Recognition Event at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 14, 2010 Doubletree-Lloyd Center Hotel, 1000 NE Multnomah, Multnomah Ballroom, 1st Floor.

This is Mabel's 21st year volunteering in the Foster Grandparent Program. Mabel is an MFS Foster Grandparent volunteer in the toddler classroom, where she cares for eight children ages 18-36 months. "Mabel is an important part of the teaching team. She reads to children, she ties shoes, zips coats, pours milk, and builds with blocks. But most importantly she sits next to the children and listens when they have something important to tell her," says Carolan Michaels, who works in early childhood education at Mount Hood Community College and nominated Mabel for this award.

This year's *Cherry Hendrix Award for Innovation* will be presented to Dorothy Schulman. Dorothy has been an MFS Experience Corps mentor for more than 4 years at Davis Elementary School, in Multnomah County. She prides herself on finding new and innovative ways to help kids learn. Whether it's creating Spanish/English flashcards for English Language Learner students, or writing a book to demonstrate how much fun writing can be, Dorothy **loves** to make learning exciting, and lives to see a child's eyes light up when something clicks.

Catherine Marcina will receive the *Excellence in Mission Award*. Catherine has been a Metropolitan Family Service volunteer at Travel Portland for the past 15 years. Her dedication and perseverance were especially appreciated when in 2001 Travel Portland (formerly POVA-Portland Oregon Visitor Association) moved from the World Trade Center where they had 175,000 visitors, to the present site at Pioneer Courthouse Square where the door count soared to 650,000 visitors per year.

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The *Heart of Gold Award*, will be presented to Beverly Wilson in recognition of her tremendous investment of time, energy, and heart in helping meet important needs for older adults in our community. For the last five years, Beverly has been the volunteer concierge on the Metropolitan Family Service N/NE RideAbout. Since Beverly has been the concierge on the RideAbout we have seen a noticeable increase in ridership. The clients know that she is there to help in any way she can and that they can always talk to her.

Metropolitan Family Service will recognize the Hollywood Senior Center with the *2010 Partner of the Year Award*. The Hollywood Senior Center is a leader when it comes to responding to the diverse and evolving needs of a growing aging population. The partnership between Hollywood Senior Center and MFS is a long standing one. Since the inception of Project Linkage, we have worked closely with Hollywood Senior center for nearly 30 years to offer support services to older adults in our community. Hollywood Senior Center is also an RSVP site for 68 volunteers, and has been since the early 1970's.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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. We provide services at more than 145 sites, including 70 schools. Metropolitan Family Service makes connections that strengthen the lives of 37,000 individuals and families each year.

For more information contact Pat Kaczmarek, Marketing and Communications Manager at 503.232.0007 ext.170, or visit us online at www.metfamily.org.

Award winners will be available for interviews from 5:15 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., prior to the award presentations. Please call 503.232.0007 ext. 170 to arrange an interview.

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