

AWARDS: Organization honors its longtime volunteers

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One of Sisters Habitat's first volunteers, Russell Williams, served as secretary on the founding board when Sisters Habitat was incorporated in 1991. He and his wife, Nancy, were friends with Sisters Habitat's founders Hort and Julia Hammond. He was a volunteer cashier in the Thrift Store until 2007 when the ReStore was established. Now, Williams spends most Saturdays helping customers and receiving items at the ReStore.

He's always ready to greet shoppers with a story and a smile.

"I enjoy the contact with the local folks and the out-of-town people who come into the store. It's interesting to meet these people and talk to them about Habitat," he said.

Three of the five lifetime award recipients have been long-time volunteers at the construction site, contributing more than 15,000 hours combined.

George Sproat joined the Habitat team in 1999 when his daughter Tana Sproat was selected as a future homeowner. But Habitat wasn't his first foray into community service. He served on the Sisters City Council from 1967 to 1983 and was mayor from 1973 to 1983. He started George's Septic Service in Sisters in 1963. George has become known as the laminate flooring expert while working at the homes.

When Bob Harris retired from farming and moved to Sisters he began volunteering with Habitat because he "needed a place to stay out of trouble." He signed up to help build the home for Jackie Kolb and her family. That was 2002, and since then he's has been faithfully showing up at the construction site



PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

Larry Lennon, Bob Harris, George Sproat and Russell Williams were honored for years of service to Sisters Habitat for Humanity.

Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, unless of course it is hunting or fishing season. Harris served on the Habitat board for six years and had a stint as board president.

Larry Lennon began volunteering at the jobsite in 2001 when the crew started building the home for Peggy Dorsett and her family. He is a close friend of Harris and goes on hunting and fishing trips, too. Lennon is currently the chairperson of the Habitat building committee and also served on the board for six years; two of those as vice-president. He is a member of Habitat's family partnership committee and in 2010 worked alongside homeowner Jimmy Loudermilk while his house was being built.

Eloise Barry may not be found at the Habitat stores or on the construction site, but she has quietly served as the "Habitat Angel" since 2001. As chairperson of the partnership committee, she has created a robust program, managing up to 20 volunteers who are family partners and mentor future homeowners. Barry, who was not able to attend the 25th anniversary celebration, has been instrumental in working with the folks at Suttle Lake Camp to begin Creation Vacation, an annual family camp for Habitat homeowners. Marie Clasen, Habitat family and volunteer services manager, said Barry is dubbed

Habitat's Angel because of her devotion to the families, her words of wisdom, and her countless hours behind the scenes supporting the staff.

“ These are the first volunteers we have recognized with lifetime awards, and we felt it was fitting as we reached our anniversary milestone. — Sharlene Weed

"Sisters Habitat for Humanity is fortunate to have many talented and dedicated volunteers. The lifetime award recipients have served nearly every week for 15 years. These are the first volunteers we have recognized with lifetime awards, and we felt it was fitting as we reached our anniversary milestone," Sharlene Weed, Habitat's executive director, said.

STRINGS: Folk festival is running grant program

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skills that will blossom as students move through the District on their educational journey."

The program will touch on many musical styles, and primarily use the O'Connor Method of string playing, developed by legendary player Mark O'Conner, based around American music. A few of the goals of the program are: to learn the fundamentals of stringed-instrument technique, to play as a team in an ensemble format, encourage creativity through improvisation, and to expand students' thinking of Americana musical styles, from Irish and Scottish fiddle, to folk, jazz and classical, so that the student musicians become versatile and appreciate the many genres of music that are possible while playing a stringed instrument.

In 2014, Sisters Folk Festival received the 3-5 year "Studio to School" grant through the Oregon Community Foundation for K-8 music and arts education. Over the course of the last three years of the initiative, SFF has hired Karen Williams, a visual arts teacher at Sisters Elementary School; purchased 16 digital keyboards for a 5th-grade general music class; bought 20 iPads for digital storytelling and arts integration;

provided teacher professional development and Storyline training; and multiple guest artists and artist residencies, one of which was a community-wide River Celebration and art installation of a river scene on the elementary school fence.

The club will be offered for two eight-week classes, and will run Tuesdays/Wednesdays from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. in the Sisters Middle School band room. Dates are October 11-December 7, and January 10-March 1, 2017. Registration is with the lead secretaries at the elementary and middle schools, and cost is \$90 per student. Scholarships are offered through SFF and the Americana Project Arts Outreach Scholarship Fund and can be accessed through Family Access Network.

For more information, call the festival office at 541-549-4979.

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New Price!

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