

Govenor recognized for outstanding service

By Leslie Mitts
Spilyay Tymoo

One local woman has been honored for her years of work with victims of crime.

Viola Govenor received the 2008 Domestic Violence Citizen Award from the Jefferson County Domestic Violence Task Force.

Govenor is the co-recipient of the award for outstanding service in the fight against domestic violence.

She began her career as a community health representative with I.H.S. and later at the Senior Services Program. Govenor also served as one of the members of the first Tribal Community Police Team.

Govenor later retired and took a three-year break before volunteering as a victim advocate with Victims of Crime Services (VOCS) and later began working for VOCS full-time.

Also receiving the Domestic Violence Citizen Award was Bonnie Namenuk, a volunteer for the Jefferson County Victim's Assistance Office.

Mark Matthews, VOCS director, presented Govenor with a plaque at the most recent Jefferson County Domestic Violence Task Force meeting.

He spoke of her past work with VOCS and said one of the areas she excels in is giving



Cecil Govenor, Valerie Govenor and Leila Govenor (left to right) all showed their support for their mother, Viola Govenor, along with her sister Amelia Tewee (at right).

"grandmotherly hugs" and connecting with victims on an emotional level.

"She's very good at giving the emotional support and that's an intangible factor," Matthews said. "It's the emotional support that really helps our victims of crime."

Govenor works specifically with local issues of elder abuse and serves on the Elder Abuse Multidisciplinary Team, Matthews said.

Fellow advocate Tina Aguilar said she has known Govenor since she was a young girl and often goes to her when she has a problem.

"She makes me smile and she makes me laugh, so that's a good thing," Aguilar said. "Viola seems to always be there for us. I appreciate her very much."

Govenor's daughter, Valerie Govenor, said her mother has always been a compassionate person.

"I commend her and I also thank her for being my mother," Valerie Govenor said. "I really thank her for her understanding and love."

Govenor spoke of her work with VOCS over the years and said, "It has been rewarding."

She didn't learn that she was receiving the award until a recent staff meeting, she said, even though Aguilar had to take her photo for the announcement in the Jefferson County Domes-

tic Violence Task Force's annual publication—Aguilar told her she needed a photo for a "special project" and even went so far as to take photos of all the other employees in order to successfully keep it a secret, she said.

"I was just minding my own business, doing my work—I didn't know anybody was watching me," Govenor said with a laugh after receiving the award.

"I was really surprised and honored," Govenor added.

Warm Springs VOCS serves on the Jefferson County Domestic Violence Task Force along with various other agencies and representatives from throughout the county. The task force meets monthly to discuss issues of concern and how to help people.

The Domestic Violence Citizen Award for 2008 is presented to people from Jefferson County who have demonstrated excellent services in the fight against domestic violence.

Horse regalia class at museum

The Museum at Warm Springs and the Oregon Arts Commission are co-sponsoring a horse regalia class. Part one of the class will be, "Making the Martingale piece of horse regalia."

Instructors will be Chris Scott and Sandra Scott-McGill. The classes will be from 5-8 p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, June 3, 4 and 5; and June 10, 11 and 12.

The classes will be conducted in the Museum at Warm Springs Education room.

For information and for registration, please contact the museum's Education program at 553-3331, ext. 407. Or come by the museum.

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