

Benchmark

A PUBLICATION BY TRUCKEE MEADOWS TOMORROW

Fall 2003
Correction Mailing

Stars to Shine October 17th at *Accentuate the Positive*

After weeks of review, the Awards Selection Committee for ***Accentuate the Positive*** has announced the recipients of this year's Platinum, Silver and Sustaining Star Awards. The awards are presented to individuals, organizations and businesses working to make a significant improvement in the quality of life in the Truckee Meadows.

Award recipients will be honored at ***Accentuate the Positive***, a luncheon celebration hosted by Truckee Meadows Tomorrow on Friday, October 17, noon at the Reno Hilton. The event is expected to attract more than 1,400 attendees, and this year's program will highlight the arts, with a variety of performances by local groups of diverse cultures.

The Stars were selected from nominations submitted by community members. The awards committee reviewed applications in the categories of Arts & Culture, Economic Vitality, Education, Health, Land Use, Natural Environment, and Public Safety.

Nominators were asked to demonstrate the nominee's contributions to quality-of-life indicators in each area, as identified by Truckee Meadows Tomorrow.

Platinum Stars were awarded to ten recipients for making extraordinary contributions to quality of life in the region, over a period of many years. Sustaining

Stars were presented to Bob Alessandrelli, Caryl Larva and R&R Partners for their ongoing support to the operations and programs of Truckee Meadows Tomorrow.

Accentuate
the 
Positive
Celebrating Quality of Life

Much gratitude is owed to the volunteer members of the awards committee for their efforts. "The committee enjoyed reading and learning about those in our community who are truly making a difference," said Estela Gutierrez, chair of the awards selection committee. Other members of the committee included Lynn Atcheson, Jill Berryman, Barney Brady, LaVonne Brooks, Donna Eveatt, Barbara Hunt, Kathy Kent, Jewel Laguerre, Susan Mayes, Jean Perry, Jennifer Smith, and Harry York.

Accentuate the Positive posters are available for posting at your business → call TMT's message line at 982-4325.

EDAWN Featured at September 9th General Membership Meeting

What's the most important concern expressed by businesses and entrepreneurs thinking about relocating to the region? Find out from Chuck Alvey, CEO & president of The Economic Development Authority of Western Nevada (EDAWN) at TMT's next general membership meeting → 7:30 AM, Tuesday, September 9, at Washoe Professional Center in the Remedees meeting rooms, just behind Remedees restaurant.

EDAWN is a public/private partnership committed to

recruiting and expanding quality companies that have a positive impact on quality of life in western Nevada. Gail Conkey, new director of business services, will join Chuck to talk about EDAWN's Business Builder software to assist local companies with their growth and expansion needs.

Anyone interested in sustainable economic development and quality of life issues in the area should attend. A complimentary continental breakfast will be served, no reservations are needed and convenient free parking is available in the parking garage off Second St.

Accentuate the Positive continued from page 1

Join us Friday, October 17 at the Reno Hilton Pavilion as we celebrate and honor those making significant contributions to improve quality of life in the Truckee Meadows.

For tickets or information, call 982-4325, or visit www.quality-of-life.org

Accentuate the Positive Tickets are \$35 per person; or \$350 for a table of 10.

Quality of Life Showcase 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM; Luncheon begins at Noon

"The committee enjoyed reading and learning about those in our community who are truly making a difference."
Estela Gutierrez, Chair Awards Selection Committee

2003 Platinum Stars

- * Associated General Contractors
- * Boys and Girls Club of the Truckee Meadows
- * Food Bank of Northern Nevada
- * Fred Boyd
- * Jim Hager and Washoe County School District
- * John Scott, M.D. and Health Access Washoe County Community Health Center
- * Mark Curtis and Artown
- * Nevada Hispanic Services
- * Sierra Arts Foundation
- * Washoe Pregnancy Center

Sustaining Stars

- * Bob Alessandrelli
- * Caryl Larva
- * R&R Partners

Silver Stars

- Arts & Culture*
- * John Lorentzen
 - * Jim McCormick
 - * Reno Chamber Orchestra
 - * Reno Film Festival
 - * Reno Jazz Festival

- Economic Vitality*
- * Cinco De Mayo, Reno
 - * International Professional Development Service
 - * Intuit
 - * NevadaWorks
 - * Promenade On The River

Education

- * Community English As A Second Language/Adult Basic Education, TMCC
- * Dennis Banks
- * Denny Martindale
- * Jane Gilbert
- * The National Judicial College, UNR
- * Reno Lawn and Landscape

Health & Human Services

- * Interfaith Hospitality Network of the Truckee Meadows
- * May Shelton
- * Moms on the Run
- * Paul Katz, M.D. and Washoe Comprehensive Stroke Center
- * Planned Parenthood Mar Monte
- * Reno Rodeo Foundation
- * Rosetta Johnson

Land Use

- * Fred Lokken, Mary Sanada, and Chuck Zeh, Members of the Update Committee, Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Commission
- * Tyrus W. Cobb
- * Washoe County Quality of Life Compact

Natural Environment

- * Eco:Logic
- * The Nature Conservancy
- * Washoe County District Health Dept., Air Quality Management Division
- * Washoe County Parks & Recreation Department

Public Safety

- * Airport Authority of Washoe County
- * Don Ritcher
- * Kevin Carter
- * Sergeant Jeff Partyka
- * Washoe County Search and Rescue

Welcome New Members

- Cassandra Bates
- Jennifer Bridge
- Cynthia Freeman, Parent Education & Child Enrichment Project

It's not too late in the year to renew your membership. TMT's \$50 special for 2003 includes individual membership for the remainder of the year and all of 2004. Visit www.quality-of-life.org to view other membership

levels and download the membership application or call 982-4325.



E-mail TMT

TMT will be transitioning the Benchmark to an e-mail newsletter in the future. Please contact us at info@quality-of-life.org to ensure we have your e-mail address. Thanks!

Quality of Life Compacts : News

Parental Involvement In Schools Compact between TMT, Washoe County School District and Washoe Education Association

- ✓ 210 parents, teachers and administrators from 60 sites have participated in training programs on how to best utilize parental involvement in the classroom and schools.
- ✓ A compendium of "Best Practices" has gone to press for distribution later this fall to local schools and parents.
- ✓ The compact leaders are also planning a marketing program to encourage local schools to undertake the National PTA certification process for parental involvement.

This compact continues to garner high praise from the National Education Association for its unique collaboration between the Washoe School District and the Washoe Education Association.

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Community-wide Indicators Compact between TMT and United Way of Northern Nevada and the Sierra (UWNNS)

- ✓ UWNNS conducted a training program this summer for staff from its Partner Agencies' funded programs on the new Community Learning Model for Community-Wide Outcomes.
- ✓ Partner Agencies were trained by TMT volunteers to identify the community "indicators" they are affecting and the benefits of their funded program to the community.

Later this fall, UWNNS will be holding training workshops for its Community Impact volunteers, who are responsible for reviewing Partner Agencies' quarterly, based on the new Community Learning Model.

TMT is currently collaborating with various entities to develop compacts focusing on Health, Literacy, and Economic Vitality indicators.

Stay tuned for further developments on these projects.

Future Compacts

Hispanic Chamber LEAD Students -- Recipe for Success

Take 26 future Hispanic community leaders, stir in an up close and personal view of what TMT's quality of life indicators actually mean in our region, add some (high quality) water and watch involvement grow!

That's what Hispanic Chamber of Commerce LEAD students learned in a July 24 leadership development class led by TMT's President, Karen Foster. With the help of a host of community quality of life experts, students were immersed in riding public transportation (RTC) from downtown to one of the jewels of our county park system -- Rancho San Rafael, sampling the Great Basin Chautauqua and enjoying the new Nevada Museum of Art. LEAD students tested how *walkable* our city is, and also learned what it means to preserve open spaces and special places through Quality of Life Compacts with TMT.

Add to this mixture, knowledge of: How Health Access Washoe County (HAWC) clinics support TMT indicators and improve community health; how Committee to Aid Abused Women (CAAW) works with the county court system to assist victims of domestic violence; and how education is always a vital ingredient.

The recipe for a successful community is the involvement of each individual. After an intense examination of how our region really measures up, TMT's Adopt-an-Indicator Co-Chair, Estela Gutierrez, reports: "Each LEAD student demonstrated their commitment by adopting a TMT indicator or two of their own." Congratulations to the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce for taking the *LEAD*.

What one thing in the Truckee Meadows region would a wizard likely fix?

E-mail your fixes to info@quality-of-life.org

See what the wizards fix in the next Winter Benchmark



When it comes to Quality of Life -- Washoe County "Walks the Talk"

Kathy Carter, Community Relations Director, Washoe County and President Elect/Vice President, TMT

Washoe County believes in our community's quality of life and is often a vocal supporter of TMT's efforts. But we do more than that—we actually "walk the talk" and encourage you to do the same.

In 1998, County Commissioners recognized the value of quality of life indicators, and officially adopted five of them. In 2001, they strengthened their commitment by adopting the first-ever Quality of Life Compact with TMT. In Fall 2002, the Board received a final status report that showed the compact's documented success.

Washoe County is a regional government that touches many aspects of our community's quality of life. Our parks, trails and open space are strong reminders of the value citizens place on their environment. Our library services provide high quality programming and facilities as evidenced by the new South Valleys Library opening and our many arts partnerships. We were pleased to offer electronic voting for the first time during the Sparks election this spring, and hope this easier and faster method will encourage voting participation. Our Sheriff's Office is constantly working with the courts and juvenile services to improve ways to reduce crime as well as provide better service to those who need court services.

For the past several years, Washoe County's Social Services has been the state's model for integrating state and county child protection services and we completely absorbed the state's role this past spring.

Quality of life is the common goal Washoe County government shares with its citizens regardless of the service provided.

And that's why we're excited to be part of a special conference next spring. In March 2004, the International Society of Quality of Life Studies will hold their annual conference in Reno bringing about 200 professional planners, university professors and others from around the world who are dedicated to quality of life issues. Washoe County and TMT view this as an incredible opportunity to not only tell the world about our community's progress but to learn how we can do even more to keep and enhance the reasons we all live here in the first place.

As TMT's slogan says... *You make a difference. We measure it.* Whether you're a daycare worker, a businessman, a stay-at-home mom or an elected official, you make a difference in your community's quality of life. It can be as simple as adopting an indicator—a free and painless way to make a difference. Log onto www.quality-of-life.org to find out more about how you can "walk the talk"

Editor's note: Thanks to TMT member Washoe County for printing this issue of Benchmark



75 Pringle Way, Suite 114
Reno, NV 89502
www.quality-of-life.org

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