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Note to editors: Award category descriptions and summaries of winning nominations are available by calling Anya Weber at (502) 564-6180, ext. 4014.

State's Exemplary Volunteers Honored

Former Gov. Collins, Heather French Henry present awards

FRANKFORT, Ky. (May 14, 2009) – Sixteen groups and individuals from across the state were honored for their volunteer contributions today at a ceremony in Frankfort.

Former Gov. Martha Layne Collins and Miss America 2000 Heather French Henry presented the 2008 Governor's Awards for Outstanding Volunteer Service at the Governor's Mansion.

The annual awards program is coordinated by the Kentucky Commission on Community Volunteerism and Service (KCCVS) in the Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS).

Gov. Steve Beshear said the group of honorees has earned great appreciation.

"Volunteers are the pulse of any community," he said. "Our commonwealth is much richer for the service of these volunteers."

CHFS Secretary Janie Miller congratulated the recipients for putting others first.

"It's very humbling to hear about their efforts and then meet the people behind these successful projects and partnerships. Showing our thanks today is just a small way to recognize the impact of their service."

The Governor's Office launched the volunteer awards program in 1975. Since 1995, KCCVS has administered the program.

Awards in 11 categories were chosen by a panel of independent judges with experience in volunteerism and/or service. This year, there were ties in two categories. Three additional achievement awards were also presented.

Merrill A. Winchester, M.D., of Stearns received the Lifetime Achievement Award.

A list of award winners and their nominators follows.

2008 Governor's Awards for Outstanding Volunteer Service

Challenge Award

Mark Neblett, Mount Washington (Bullitt County)
Nominated by Sheila Stanton

Corporate Award

Kentuckiana Roofing, Louisville (Jefferson County)



Nominated by Rob Locke

Director of Volunteers

Jenny Yee Greber, Newport (Campbell County)
Nominated by Karen Berger-Ducat and Susan Bushey

Faith-Based Group Award

Church Under the Bridge, Inc., Lexington (Fayette County)
Nominated by Dr. Wendy Stivers

Faith-Based Individual Award

Brittany Nicole Richardson, Florence (Boone County)
Nominated by Renee McClanahan

Lifetime Achievement Award

Merrill A. Winchester, M.D., Stearns (McCreary County)
Nominated by Jennifer Duckett

National Service Group Award

Jeffersontown High School JROTC cadets, Louisville (Jefferson County)
Nominated by Marie M. Swanson

National Service Individual Award

Francesca Pribble, Louisville (Jefferson County)
Nominated by Helmer Duverge

Nonprofit Organization Award (Tie)

Knox County UNITE Coalition, Barbourville (Knox County)
Nominated by Claudia Gibson Greenwood

Nonprofit Organization Award (Tie)

St. Vincent Mission, Inc., David (Floyd County)
Nominated by Joyce Mitchell

Volunteer Service Award

Edward Kirby, Louisville (Jefferson County)
Nominated by Keith Hosey

Youth Volunteer Service Award (Tie)

Katlyn Marie Farris, Louisville (Jefferson County)
Nominated by Jimmy Wallace

Youth Volunteer Service Award (Tie)

Erin Oakley, Cadiz (Trigg County)
Nominated by Brenda Southwick

Make A Difference Day Awards

Make A Difference Day Traveling Award (DCBS Region)

Eastern Mountain Service Region

Make A Difference Day Traveling Award (AmeriCorps Program)

MSU Corps, Morehead (Rowan County)
The Learning Corps, Owensboro (Daviess County)