

2012 Unsung Heroes



From left: Alan Mela, Phil Rossi, Michael McConnell, Sarah Howell and Tom Carey.

Photo by Vern Uyetake, Lake Oswego Review.

One of the positive annual events associated with our community is the recognition of volunteerism, through the "Unsung Hero" Award. Since 2001, the City has recognized 40 people in Lake Oswego who best exemplified selfless community service. These are the people that work quietly, often behind the scenes, without seeking or receiving pay or recognition and without a motive other than helping their neighbors and community. These people make Lake Oswego a wonderful place to live.

Five people were recognized as Unsung Heroes in 2012. Their names have been added to a plaque that is on display in City Hall.

Tom Carey, Michael McConnell and Alan Mela

This Farmers' Market trio has been arriving at Millennium Plaza Park every Saturday morning before 6:30 a.m. from May to October for more than five years. These three volunteers arise from their warm beds, collect their reflective vests and radios, to cheerfully and quietly guide the many, many vendor cars and trucks bringing goods and produce to the Lake Oswego Farmers' Market. With Tom in the front of the plaza, these three work together as a team to ensure that the vendors maneuver their vehicles through the maze of tents and tables on the plaza, safely and efficiently. Because of their dedication and commitment to the Market, the vendors, and the citizens who shop and gather there, are able to enjoy a wonderful, relaxing experience.

Sarah Howell

Sarah has led the effort to bring an Elementary World Language Immersion Program to our schools. She has put in countless hours each week gathering data, interviewing known experts in the field nationwide, and sharing this information with school district leadership. She has worked tirelessly on behalf of children and their families to research, educate, and advocate for the program. Because of Sarah's efforts and advocacy, the school district now offers an immersion program Pre-K-2nd Grade. There are more than 90 students participating in the program with additional students on the waitlist. In addition, she also finds time to serve on the Lake Oswego School Foundation Board and Lake Grove PTA, and most importantly, as the mother of three small children.

Phil Rossi

For the past 15 years, Phil Rossi has committed himself to the enrichment and positive development of Lake Oswego Boy Scout Troop 230. As Advancement Chairmen, he provided guidance and encouragement to the scouts and ensured each scout earned his rank advancement in accordance to the Boy Scout's rules and ethics.

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Phil is also a volunteer for the Lake Oswego and Clackamas County Amateur Radio Emergency Services. These volunteer groups of licensed amateur radio operators are dedicated and essential in providing communication for local agencies in case of emergencies or disasters.

On behalf of the Council and the community, we say "Thank You" to all of our Unsung Heroes who make the Lake Oswego community a better place.

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