

2010 Senior of the Year Nominees

Carlene Hosea-Carlene has volunteered for numerous volunteer organizations- from youth to senior groups. She is a member of the Mother Lode Lions Club, organized National Nite Out in her neighborhood and has participated in fundraisers for the El Dorado Center for the Visually Impaired and the Shriners Children's Hospital and has been a local 4-H leader. Carlene gives unselfishly to each and every group or organization and serves them to the best of her ability.

Harry & Mary Ann Harper-Harry & Mary Ann are long-time residents of El Dorado County-they even met at a teen dance at the Shingle Springs Community Center, more than 50 years ago! Harry has been active in young peoples' lives by volunteering as a 4-H leader, the Band Boosters and other school functions. Mary Ann has volunteered for many school organizations, organized community-wide blood drives for over 10 years, and still continues to participate in FFA Boosters Club, the Red Hatter's and many other athletic organizations for their grandchildren. They understand the importance of community service and a good work ethic and have strived to "pass-it-on" to the next generation.

Bernie & Evelyn Ritcher-Evelyn & Bernie work as a team and enjoy their many volunteer activities. They have been Master Gardeners for 22 years and Master Food Preservers for 25 years, they have been volunteer judges at the El Dorado County Fair, and are active in local food programs for the needy. They teach free public classes on safe food preservation, how to garden and are always willing to assist others. They currently volunteer at the VFW breakfast-and Evelyn was recently serving, with her arm in a sling! A nomination stated-"They are the kindest and most giving people we have had the privilege to know."

Raelene Nunn-When Raelene retired in 1997 she became a full-time volunteer; since then she has participated with many organizations and projects that serve this community. Raelene has been a volunteer counselor for HICAP (Health Insurance Counseling & Advocacy Program) and has counseled several thousand individuals, at private appointments or at community presentations in all areas of the county. Raelene volunteers several times a week at the Lake View Elementary School- she helps students with reading & journaling. When reading stories to the students, she often brings stories to life by dressing in costume! Although a very busy woman, she has made serving others and bettering her community an important part of her life.

Joyce Vorpahl-Joyce has volunteered and is still volunteering at Marshall Hospital two days a week. She has worked for MORE as a volunteer for seven years. Not one to wait to be asked, Joyce has assisted residents in the Cold Springs Mobile Villa by transporting them to their appointments, shopping and has created a "Dine Out" program for the residents. Joyce is a real "dynamo"!

Rodney Key-Rodney relocated to El Dorado County seven years ago to be closer to family and began volunteering almost immediately! Rodney began by mentoring recovering drug and alcoholic young adults at a Transitional Home here in Placerville. He has continued to mentor young people through his church and to visit those members who are unable to attend church anymore. Rod is a volunteer for the "Friendly Visitor Program" at the Senior Center, an advocate for seniors and has recently been accepted as a Long-term Care Ombudsman. Rod has a heart of gold and truly cares about people he meets.

Elorene (Ellie) Malone-Ellie is an impressive role-model of a volunteer in every regard! Ellie has taught art classes at the Senior Day Care Center every Tuesday for over fifteen years, she visits sick friends, provides transportation to appointments and is an active member of the Placerville Art Association. Ellie continues to give art classes in her home studio and has served as President of both the Placerville Art Association and the Diamond Springs Art Association. Ellie has been painting since she was 12 years old and loves to share her gift of painting with others. Ellie is amazing!

Bernell (Bernie) Dowse-Bernie has lived in El Dorado County for 31 years and has been volunteering in the community for most of those years. As a docent at the Marshall Gold State Historic Park in Coloma he has given tours of mining equipment for school children. Bernie has also participated as a member and an officer of the Optimist Club-he has organized and conducted their scholarship program. Always aware of the needs of the homeless and needy in the area, he has participated in many ways for the Salvation Army Service Unit here in Placerville. He presently serves on the Community Action Committee and is a member of the Masons. In addition to his volunteer work with many organizations, he has been cutting, splitting & delivering wood to people who can not afford to purchase wood on their own. Bernie is a valuable asset to our community!

Tom and Carol Waller-Tom and Carol make so many contributions to our church and our community! To list a few, they work on the cleaning ministry and also on the funeral ministry-they prepare food and serve it too! They have also volunteered on many senior projects in El Dorado Hills and are active members of our community-sharing their time and talents with others. And they do all this with a wonderful attitude and a big smile on their faces!

Yvonne Griffin-You can find Yvonne at the El Dorado Hills Senior Nutrition site as a willing volunteer almost every day. She organizes and facilitates the Special Senior Luncheons. She has many amazing talents-she has taught a French cooking class and a French language class for seniors. Not one to stay still too long, she also teaches an exercise class and assists with the very popular Bingo games each week.

Yvonne's accomplishments and willingness to volunteer make her an excellent nominee for Senior of the Year.

Tommy Hawke-Tommy is the kind of guy that makes you want to do better just by being around him! This guy lets no moss grow under his feet-he never complains and gives unselfishly of his time, expecting nothing back, but friendship. Tommy plays fiddle for the Buckboard Bunch, a local old-time country band. They perform at the Senior Center, the Senior Day Care Center as well as other community events. Tommy is a constant role model of diligence, patience and kindness to all that he serves.