



United Way of Jackson County

Media Alert

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CONTACT:

November 28, 2022

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2nd Annual United Way Everyday Hero Awards

United Way of Jackson County, with support from the Joe & Frances Naumes Foundation, launched Everyday Heroes in 2021 year. Nomination forms were distributed throughout the year and awards were made on November 23, 2022. The award grew out of Sue Naumes' recognition from St. Vincent de Paul and Sue wanting to see folks celebrated who do great things every day.

The award winners are described below:

Cass Cornwell is a zone captain in the wildfire recovery efforts. Caryn Wheeler Clay nominated Cass for her efforts to connect with survivors, for being a tireless advocate and this, being a survivor of the fires herself. "Her commitment and dedication to ensuring that recovery information is accessible to all has been absolutely astounding." Said Caryn Wheeler Clay. Cass's number is 541.621.0177 and Caryn's is 541.613.5420.

Frank Kukla is a remarkable volunteer at Ruch Outdoor Community School. He facilitates reading and math groups and he doesn't live in the Applegate or have children in the school. He gives his time, treasure, and talent to serve the school. Julie Barry, Ruch Outdoor Community School nominated him. Frank's number is 541.300.9303 and Julie's is 541.301.4222.

Tiffanie Lambert works for the Phoenix Talent Rising District and was nominated by Brent Barry, Superintendent. Tiffanie was nominated for her remarkable efforts since the wildfires of 2020. She even went door to door to find families and help get them services and get their kids back in school. As Brent said, "Quite simply, she does it all." Tiffanie's number is 541.401.2935 and Brent's is 541.941.9889.

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Barb Meredith is a volunteer fitness instructor for older adults. She is kind, gentle and has an amazing personality. Barb is also a volunteer ukulele instructor at senior centers. Jeni Beck nominated her. Barb's number is 541.535.1905 and Jeni's is 541.890.5490.

Steve Sparks works in human resources at Harry & David and never fails to respond for a request for help, especially if it's moving heavy or awkward things. Steve picks up donations, moves furniture, delivers furniture to countless fire survivors. He's always there when people need him! Ashley Hughes nominated Steve. Steve's number is 541.646.4473 and Ashley's is 541.643.1606.

Inga Leed is an early intervention specialist for the Jackson County Early Intervention Services. She works with families and children facing difficult diagnoses. She volunteers at the Oasis Center to build positive relationships. She was nominated by Stacy Inman. Inga's phone number is 541.816.7938 and Stacy's is 541.200.9860.

The final winner is Deputy Neftali Mateos with Jackson County Sheriff's Department. He was nominated for his work with people fighting addiction and providing housing for them. He's an assistant pastor at his church. "He's truly a selfless person, a hard worker and a great person." said Aaron Lewis, Jackson County Sheriff's Department. Both can be reached at the Jackson County Sheriff's Department. Aaron's number is 541.864.8773.

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