



Thirteenth Annual
Community Service Awards

October 25, 2023

Presenting Sponsor





A Word from Serenity Lane's President & CEO

Welcome to the 13th Annual Community Service Awards (CSA). Since its inception, CSA has been one of my favorite community gatherings. With each and every award presentation, we learn of the extraordinary efforts of kind, loving and skilled people unpretentiously saving the lives of fellow humans suffering from a disease few can fathom.

The stigma associated with Substance Use Disorder (SUD) is an unfortunate and real barrier to getting the help that one needs which contributes to the diabolical cycle of SUD. This disease of the brain causes one to persistently make decisions against one's interests and often at the expense of those closest to us. Because of its stigma, it has quietly wrecked lives and families and affects generations.

Yet, over the last 100 years, empathetic people have quietly and selflessly helped individuals and families suffering from SUD. Determined professionals and caregivers have recognized the potential in people and – through increasingly more sophisticated and effective methods – helped others achieve freedom from a chronic and often fatal disease.

During the past century, throughout the turbulence of nations, cultures and economies, a growing community of caring, humble and committed professionals, have quietly and effectively confronted Substance Use Disorder, releasing the enormous potential of every person they help. Today we celebrate members of the current generation of treatment professionals that possess a tireless disposition of hope, potential and opportunity.

Thank you for joining me in congratulating these deserving awardees.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pete Kerns". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Pete Kerns

Welcome

Emcee

Mary Reily

Opening Remarks

Pete Kerns, Serenity Lane

Community Service Awards

Community Youth Leadership Award

Presented by Dr. Paul Steier, Serenity Lane

Addiction Professional Award

Presented by Basillio Sandoval, Our Community Plaza

Mental Health Professional Award

Presented by Dr. Estela Clemente, Choice Wellness Centers

Health Care Professional Award

Presented by Lynnea Lindsey, PeaceHealth

Emergency Services Award

Presented by Chief Chris Skinner, Eugene Police Department

Brief Remarks

Dr. Paul Chavin, Past Chairman

Oregon Medical Board Investigative Committee

Regional Awards

Presented by Pat Straube, Dari Mart and

Jose Gonzalez, Sierra Pacific Industries

Unsung Hero Awards

Presented by Matt Templeman, KEZI

Community Service Awards

Dwight Lee Spritual Advisor Award

Presented by Ryan Baker, St. Mary's Episcopal Church

Community Leadership Award

Presented by Chris Wig, Emergence Addiction and Behavioral Therapies

Lifetime Achievement Award

Presented by Annie Herz, Sponsors Inc.

Lifetime Achievement Award

Presented by Tony Vezina, 4D Recovery

Closing Remarks

Pete Kerns

2023 COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

Community Youth Leadership Award

Kaitlin Richards

Addiction Professional Award

Maria Cristina Flores Dominguez, CHW, PSS, PWS
Our Community Plaza

Mental Health Professional Award

Shahna Cregan, SUDP, LMHC
Sea Mar Behavioral Health

Health Care Professional Award

Kathryn Kernan, FNP
PeaceHealth's Unified Care Clinic

Emergency Services Professional Award

Officer David Clark
Eugene Police Department

***“For your exemplary work in the field
of drug and alcohol treatment,
education and prevention.”***

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

Community Youth Leadership Award



Kaitlin Richards

Kaitlin Richards has seen enough addiction in this world to know how many people find themselves in the grips of a disease that started when they were young. So, if she can help young people when they are still able to avoid long-term patterns of use, she could be saving them and their future families from

the worst effect of the disease.

Kaitlin started working in social services in college, called to the work after a series of challenging events in her own early life. From investigating child abuse cases in DHS, she ran the juvenile treatment court program and while she knew there was a hole in youth treatment services, the gap for withdrawal management became extremely apparent. Kaitlin started jumping through the endless hoops required to open a youth treatment facility. Kaitlin's House opened in July 2023.

Kaitlyn realizes there are many assumptions about the kids she works with but she knows that there is so much more to them than meets the eye. These kids are often trying to get well in impossible situations where they don't have full control of their lives – like where they live and their family circumstances within the household. In her work, she is always transparent and reminds them that they have choices. As such, they trust her and feel safe in her care. Sometimes she is the first person who they feel has ever truly cared about their wellbeing.

In the short term, keeping Kaitlin's House open in the midst of uncertain funding is the goal. But the long-term dream to her is also clear – a residential facility, maybe on the outskirts of town, where the kids' counselors move with them throughout all levels of their treatment so they don't have to tell their stories over and over again. A facility with all the bells and whistles, including life skills classes.

In addition to all of the heavy lifting she does at work, Kaitlin likes to lift physical weights in her spare time. If she's not at the gym, you will find her spending time with her family, including one of her greatest inspirations, her own kid.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

Addiction Professional Award



**Maria Cristina Flores Dominguez, CHW,
PSS, PWS**

Our Community Plaza

Maria Flores has been with Our Community Plaza since 2016, starting at the time, with Centro Latino Americano as an intake worker. Her knack for administration and listening skills quickly proved valuable and today she is the peer support coordinator and supervisor for their Substance Use Disorder program.

Maria oversees five peer support workers that work with 60-70 clients at any given time, often meeting with them once a week to provide one-on-one support as they work to build their lives in recovery. When asked what she most wished others understood about the people she works with, Maria highlighted that although they are finally able to offer some much needed low barrier help to their clients through increased funding from Measure 110, they still have to work so hard to get the help they need. There is only one no cost residential facility for the LatinX population in the state and even outpatient programs struggle to provide the language and culturally-informed programming needed to increase chances of long term success for their clients.

None of this keeps Maria from a positive attitude. It is apparent why she is so good at her job. The warmth and openness is just the surface of a person deep in knowledge and quick-mindedness. She is currently completing her CADC certification as well as an associate's degree in human services. With both, she hopes to grow her ability to help clients in new ways and get out in the community to work on prevention programming. She would like to help explain to folks what addiction looks like and how it comes to be so they can avoid needing the services she currently provides later.

In her spare time, Maria loves spending time with her family, including her two children. She enjoys exploring new places and hiking new trails around the state, as well as gardening.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

Mental Health Professional Award



Shahna Cregan, SUDP, LMHC
Sea Mar Behavioral Health

It can take Shahna Cregan a while to say what she does. Not in any part due to an inefficiency in speech, but simply because she has that many jobs.

Between being the clinical supervisor for three co-responder crisis teams for the Vancouver, WA area, owning a private practice focused on taking care of first responders and supporting high needs clients at a treatment facility, she keeps busy.

Shahna entered the field of mental health with a scientific curiosity. Originally planning to be a nutritionist, she eventually made her way to environmental chemistry. Her first clinical rotation was in an outpatient treatment center and she became fascinated at how fast the brain could heal when someone stops taking substances.

Reflecting on those in her own life who had struggled, Shahna was excited to bear witness to healing and wanted to help as much as she could. Tired of referring out patients for counseling in the outpatient center she was working in, she returned to school for higher degrees in mental health and addiction studies and is certified in EMDR, a treatment model she holds in high regard. As she worked more with the first responders tending to many of these folks on the front lines, she knew that one of the biggest impacts she could have was by helping the helpers.

Shahna wishes more people understood that when the brain is addicted, the opportunity to choose wellness is taken. The addiction is stronger than the cognition. Beating it takes a lot of patience for the narrow windows of willingness. The process can be frustrating. Shahna has seen mandated treatment work for many people as a way of helping to find these windows.

The process can take a lot out of providers. Shahna loves working with so many specialists on self-care and she also knows that so many of them are not receiving the support they need to avoid burnout. She dreams of a retreat center for therapists and first responders to get the critical self-care they need to keep doing the work.

She tries to practice what she preaches by doing her own therapy, regularly painting and engaging twice a week in Krav Maga.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

Healthcare Professional Award



Kathryn Kernan, FNP
PeaceHealth's Unified Care Clinic

Kathryn Kernan will never forget the day she was offered the opportunity to implement PeaceHealth's one-of-a-kind UCare Clinic in 2015. At the time, she was working in family medicine and saw a large number of patients with mental illness. Working in a clinic that integrated primary care with behavioral health felt like a natural progression to her.

The UCare Clinic is a no-barrier space for patients often considered too much for the standard medical system. The intent is to redirect patients from the ER to a clinic where they cannot be deemed unfit for care. UCare clinicians also do visits to transitional housing facilities and, from time to time, will even have to go out into the streets to track down patients.

Kathy says that most of the patients they see are wary and nervous when they begin care with them but quickly they realize they are in a safe space. Their no-show rate is extremely low – a pride of Kathy and her team.

When asked what she wishes people knew about the folks she works with, she said that so many of us are just one step away from where these folks are. No matter their circumstances, there is pain in their stories, and a rawness that has something to teach all of us. Every single one of them has purpose, including showing us how to care for each other as fellow humans.

Kathy and her team dream of a facility where they could provide these folks a safe space around the clock. A transitional residential space where they could have a warm bed, access to a hot shower and nutritious food. A chance to stabilize their medications. And knowledge that they are safe so they can have a fighting chance at finding wellness long term.

In her spare time, she enjoys walks with her two golden doodles and doing anything crafty to keep her mind focused on what is beautiful.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

Emergency Services Professional Award



Officer David Clark Eugene Police Department

A self-described military brat, Officer David Clark initially believed his version of public service lay in the public school classroom. But it was lacking the individual approach he longed to give his students.

As he tried to find a new focus with an education degree, he found himself home one day watching some cops work with a group at a nearby park and the lightbulb went off. He wanted to be a police officer. In 2004, he joined the police department, was promoted in 2019 to sergeant and shortly thereafter he asked for a demotion so he could continue to do hands-on work with people on the streets.

The kids still hold a special place in his heart and he enjoys being able to help get them off the street, but it's so many people that make his work profound and meaningful. He loves understanding the person behind the front story of homelessness or addiction. He knows their struggles are more important than their criminality so he does what he can for them while still holding them accountable. He's deeply aware of the power he has being the person who comes in on someone's worst day. It is the fixing he can do in that moment, to help bring calm to the storm, that he really enjoys about his job.

But his pride for now is working with the local St. Vincent DePaul West Side Service Station. Through his work with an annual holiday celebration and impromptu visits just to say hi even when he is not responding to a call, he has built a foundation of trust with many of the community members so that when they find themselves in crisis, he is sometimes the only person they will talk to.

In his spare time, Officer Clark is an avid woodworker, often building customized corn hole boards for auctions and benefits and bell stands for police departments around the state. He is married to a fellow officer and has two children.



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2023

COMMUNITY SERVICE REGIONAL AWARDS

Honoring those working in partnership with their local communities to address the needs of those living with substance use disorders.

Albany

Dr. David Simmons
S.T.A.R.S.

Bend

Dr. Jamie McAllister DO, PC

Eugene

Anamaria Clemons
PeaceHealth Riverbend

Portland

Transcending Hope

Roseburg

Glenda Major CADC III, LPT, ADSS

Salem

Ryan Daven, MSW, LCSW, CADC-II
New Perspectives Center

“For your exemplary work in the field of drug and alcohol treatment, education and prevention.”

COMMUNITY SERVICE REGIONAL AWARDS ALBANY



Dr. David Simmons, MD, MMus, FASAM
Medical Director
S.T.A.R.S. (*Samaritan Treatment & Recovery Services*)

I want every kid (and the kid inside every adult) to know that no matter where they are or where they have been, there are people ready and eager to love them, because they are worthy of being loved. I'm surprised and humbled to be recognized, and excited that it's a portent of a future where every one of us who cares for people entering recovery is empowered and aligned to build healthier communities together.

At no point in music school did I ever guess that this was where my operatic career would take me, and I am stunned daily by the privilege of doing this work together.

COMMUNITY SERVICE REGIONAL AWARDS BEND



Dr. Jamie McAllister, DO, PC

This award comes to me at the very end of my career which means the absolute world to me. I started out in medical school in 1981 and in 1983 my mom, who was an alcoholic my entire life, was killed in an alcohol-related MVA. After so much grief and an eye-opening rotation at WestCenter, a chemical dependency facility in Tucson, I decided to work in addiction medicine. I was one of the first to be certified by ASAM in 1989 and the rest is history.

I moved to Bend in 1991 and tried to start my own IOP but realized I didn't need to reinvent the wheel. I managed to convince Serenity Lane to bring their outpatient program to Bend. Don Ziegler came over as the first director who remains a dear friend. Again the rest is history.

Serenity Lane is going strong in Bend and has served thousands of people and families suffering from the consequences of addiction. I am so proud to be the fire that enabled Serenity Lane to bring their program to Bend and make such a huge positive impact in our community. I do my best when I show up by making myself available to those in need without judgement...just an open heart always reminding them they matter, they are loved and valued.

COMMUNITY SERVICE REGIONAL AWARDS EUGENE



Anamaria Clemons

Manager in Care Management
PeaceHealth Sacred Heart Medical Center

It is a great privilege to be able to connect with our patients, to share in their successes, to bear witness to their struggles, to support unconditionally, and on top of that, work for an organization who lives their mission—who encourages compassion and dedicated service to all, who funds efforts to support the entire person (not just medical care but housing, access to treatment, etc.).

I am blessed to be part of this community and to get to work with community partners all who do the really hard work to support our entire community. I don't have to be the expert in everything—I just have to know and trust people in the community who are true experts in their field.

Being a Care Manager at PeaceHealth is a labor of love. We are honored to be in a position to connect with patients and advocate for plans that respect their autonomy and wishes and values. We have so many care team members who have recommendations for patients and want to see them go a certain route—and we certainly have family members and loved ones who have their own wishes for the patient's path. But we have the responsibility and privilege to connect with the patient, take time to truly understand their goals, values, and wishes, educate about options and recommendations, and then do our best to facilitate the safest, best plan possible that honors their own goals for patient's health and treatment.

I worry so much about access. I think the decision to seek treatment/care is so courageous and sometime tenuous and I wish we could respond quickly in all circumstances and regardless of funding source to make sure people are able to quickly access the care they desire and deserve. It's so important to remove barriers and I believe lack of access is one of our greatest barriers.

COMMUNITY SERVICE REGIONAL AWARDS PORTLAND



Transcending Hope Sober Living

Transcending Hope is a peer driven organization created with passion to serve and bring together our diverse communities. We provide services for families, women, women with

children, men, men with children and the Latino population, including assistance with housing. Our staff strives to create a family-inclusive environment, community within community, sharing and supporting each other in all dimensions of wellness. Transcending Hope has not generally been recognized in the community. The staff are the ones who have created extraordinary support for our people. We are grateful they are being recognized for the front line work they are providing to ensure that our people are empowered and feel as though they belong to a community.

As a housing provider, we wish we could create more funded housing for the “afterwards” after treatment, jail, hospitalization, homelessness, etc. To enable a space to breathe, and deal with other pressing matters while building their foundations. Transcending Hope now has 20 locations, of those 20, 11 are funded homes. When I came into recovery over 20 years ago I was a single mom of six children, homeless, and defeated. The people I found and resources I utilized enabled me to become who I am today. I needed those resources to survive and then to heal. This is Transcending Hope’s hope, that we can provide relief and support. Transcending Hope is GRATEFUL! There is so much more, we are one of the puzzle pieces trying to “Change Lives One Step at a Time”. Thank you.

COMMUNITY SERVICE REGIONAL AWARDS ROSEBURG



Glenda Major CADC III, LPT, ADSS

I have to be honest, when I first received the news of this award, I was overwhelmed and cried. This is such an honor. After working 50 years in the Behavioral Health field, this award is truly a blessing. This is a highlight of a very rewarding career. I am grateful, thank you.

The courts in Douglas County send referrals for clients that have had a DUI offense. I complete a screening and referral report and send the referral to the treatment provider of the clients choice. I monitor each client's progress for a year, sometimes a little longer. I keep the courts updated by sending Declaration Letters reporting each client's compliance or noncompliance. I can only supply these reports with the help of the counselors I work with. I am so grateful for the quick responses and follow-up I received from the counselors. I like the idea of working as a team to support and help improve the safety of our communities. This includes such a wonderful team of police officers, judges, the hard-working court clerks, counselors and the providers that make The Victim Impact Panel available to our clients. I work with so many wonderful dedicated people. I love what I do, and I want to offer the best service to the clients, courts and counselors that I work with.

I encourage individuals and offer hope. In a non-judgmental manner, I hopefully help clients recognize and acknowledge the risk they put themselves and others in by driving under the influence of alcohol/drugs. I assist individuals in finding the best resources to help achieve long-term sobriety. My hope is to inspire individuals and help them experience a healthy and happy life.

COMMUNITY SERVICE REGIONAL AWARDS SALEM



Ryan Daven, MSW, LCSW, CAD-C-II

Executive Director
New Perspectives Center

To quote a mentor, "All health is behavioral health;" a renaissance persists; where life experience resounds with equivalence to academia and subsequent licensure...the result: synergy and a support network commensurate with the urgency of behavioral health population health. I receive this award with humility, openness, and appreciation for the myriad teachable moments derived from the life experience of those whom I supported throughout my career. In addition, I propose a charge to our growing collaboration: prioritize you to better care for others...we need you.

 SERENITY LANE

Unsung Hero

A W A R D S



2023 Unsung Heroes

Sequoia Weldon
Relief Nursery

Leaf Ploub
Oxford House, Inc.

Natasha Cespuglio
Chrysalis Behavioral/The Whitebird Clinic

Keith Nelson
Community Volunteer

Lindsay Lundeen
Emergence

Shawnee Rose Lacewell
Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians

Olivia Fulton
Willamette Family

April Ford
Riverview Center for Growth

Dr. Miguel Estevez
Serenity Lane

*“I’m an Unsung Hero in the fight against
the disease of addiction.”*



Sequoia Weldon BS, CDC-R

Treatment Court Navigator

Relief Nursery

Nominated by Ami Saris, ODHS Child Welfare

“When I first started this job nearly two years ago, I was amazed at the honesty, hope and support offered through the treatment court program.

The individuals in our program come from all different backgrounds, and no matter what that may entail, we do our best to meet folks where they are at in life. I am so thankful to be a part of this program, because together we encourage the goals and dreams of people in our community.”



Leaf Ploub

State Coordinator

Oxford House Inc, Oregon

Nominated by Ann Ploub, ADAPT

“This award truly humbles me, from the time I walked out of Serenity Lane in 2016 until today I have been forever grateful. The change of trajec-

tory in my life has been nothing short of a miracle. I do all that I can to give back any chance I get to this organization and the recovery community, as an amends for my past and gratitude for my present. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.”





Natasha Starr Cespuglio, PSS, CRM

Peer Support Specialist

Chrysalis Behavioral/The Whitebird Clinic

Nominated by Steve Oldenburg, Chrysalis Behavioral/
The Whitebird Clinic

"I did not know what 'unsung hero' meant and had to Google it. After I learned what it was, I was shocked that I was seen in that way by someone. I couldn't believe it and I feel honored for my name to be included in such a beautiful thing like this. One thing I wish people knew about this work is that the universe uses us as a tool to support other humans. Sometimes all we need is kindness in our life and someone by our side. We are and can be that person to others. If I could do anything to make someone's life better in addiction recovery, it would be create a hot tub time machine and go back to teach the young them about coping skills and mental health. I would then let them try again. This knowledge can save a life."



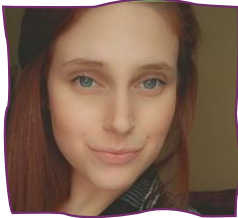
Keith Nelson

Community Volunteer

Nominated by Doug Moore

"Community service is one tool that helps keeps me sober and I hope something I share will give another fellow alcoholic hope."





Lindsay Lundeen CADC-R, CRM

SUD Counselor

Emergence Addiction and Behavioral Therapies

Nominated by Abby Schmidt, Kelly Sutherland, Ray Brown and Thalassa Montemurro, Relief Nursery

Nominated by Laura Cooper, Emergence Addiction and Behavioral Therapies

“This award means that all the struggles and pain that I have been through in my life had meaning and purpose, because I get to use those experiences to empathize with people who are still struggling with addiction and mental health. I get to encourage them and give them hope that there is light at the end of the very dark tunnel that they are in, and I am an example of that hope. This award means that I am right where I am supposed to be, making a difference in as many people’s lives as I can every day. I am so incredibly grateful and blessed to be receiving this! I just want to continue to bring light to the darkness for people struggling through life and addiction and with mental health, and give them the tools they desperately need to be successful in their recovery.”



Shawnee Rose Lacewell, CRM

MAT Peer Mentor

Confederated Tribe of Siletz Indians, Lincoln County

Nominated by Chris Harrington, Serenity Lane

“If I could do anything to make life better for those battling addiction/in recovery it would be make more sober housing available for people coming out of treatment, and also make more housing first or (wet housing) for people that are struggling with addiction and aren’t quite ready to get sober. Housing is a major issue for people new in recovery that were either homeless before treatment or living somewhere where drugs are being used/sold and they have nowhere to go when they graduate treatment and also people struggling with addiction have told me that they stay loaded because they don’t have a warm safe place to sleep at night. There needs to be more options for housing first.”





Olivia Fulton, CADC II, QMHA II

Substance Use Disorder Counselor

Willamette Family Treatment Services

Nominated by Kimberly Brown, Willamette Family

"I didn't choose this work; it chose me. It was never my plan to work in this field. In college, I took a side job at Cheshire Women's Residential. Five years later, I'm still with Willamette Family and can't imagine doing anything else! My clients and I have so much fun! They are honestly so hilarious and unique. It is a blessing and honor to hold space for them, to watch them grow and figure out what is important to them/who they want to be. Treatment is about so much more than getting "sober." It's a journey of healing, figuring out what works, making real connections with people who care, and building the life of your dreams."



April Ford

Child and Family Therapist

Riverview Center for Growth

Nominated by John Ford, Serenity Lane

"This award means that years of my life, working endless hours at my various jobs in the mental health field have not gone unnoticed. It means a lot to be recognized because being on the front lines during this time in history has been rough. I wish people truly understood the importance of prevention of early childhood trauma and how much prevention could impact the work we do. We need to be the change. We need to create a community where we help each other heal and provide easily accessed resources for parents who are experiencing not only addiction issues but any type of current or past trauma, and stress, including modern day working parents."

If I could do anything to make life better for those battling addiction/in recovery, it would be to develop additional systems to continue to support them along their ongoing journey of growth. Healing is an ongoing lifelong endeavor. The importance of early intervention and prevention is key. I would dedicate endless funding to help parents who have their own trauma heal and learn how to self-regulate so they can break generational cycles of abuse and neglect."



Unsung Hero

AWARDS



Dr. Miguel Estevez

Staff Physician
Serenity Lane

Nominated by Amy Lamb, Serenity Lane

"This award means that others feel that I have benefitted the lives of the patients I work for.

However, in truth, I am grateful to be able to do the work I do. Addiction is a brain disorder that is almost always related to having been traumatized before the addiction cycle starts. It would be wonderful to have more services available in the community to help people reintegrate into society and live their fullest life."



2023 COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

Dwight Lee Spiritual Advisor Award

*Dr. Cole Struhar
Serenity Lane*

Community Leadership Award

Restored Connections Peer Center

Lifetime Achievement Award

*Dr. Douglas Bovee
Lane County Methadone*

Lifetime Achievement Award

*Jim O'Rourke
Attorney*

***“For your exemplary work in the field
of drug and alcohol treatment,
education and prevention.”***

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

Dwight Lee Spiritual Advisor Award



Dr. Cole Struhar
Serenity Lane

Dr. Cole Struhar, Serenity Lane's Spiritual Advisor, describes her work as helping people connect to that which they hold sacred. It can be quite the journey for someone who has been lost in their addiction for many years. But Cole believes deeply in each of us as humans and it is clear she considers it a great honor to walk with people on their path to reclaiming hope.

Cole was born in Ohio into a challenging environment, but despite it all, could feel her gift of this fundamental belief in humanity at an early age. She found her way to working as a therapist, enjoying watching people reconnect with their hope, but could see the opportunity for so much more. Through international travels and a series of her own spiritual awakenings, she found herself working as a humanist chaplain. She recognizes her take on the subject may be unorthodox for some, but to her that means helping people connect with the goodness inside themselves. As a chaplain, the job dictates being with people in their beliefs. Her work is not dogmatic.

The people Dr. Struhar works with have simply found themselves seeking safety in a substance that unfortunately turned on them and began to cause them harm. But when they are able to challenge their strategies, they find the freedom they long for. She says, "Recovery is not about addiction, it is about getting free."

She dreams of a training program for people to learn to do the work she does. Residential treatment, she posits, requires an approach to chaplain work that is deeply authentic and focuses on helping people connect with one another. Those entering recovery aren't looking for frothy appeals, they want to believe they are being seen and connecting with a fellow human who gets it.

Cole and her wife call the Portland area home, but she still enjoys expanding her worldview by travelling and is a lifelong learner in her spare time.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

Community Leadership Award



RCPC

Restored Connections Peer Center

Restored Connections Peer Center has just been open a short time, but the numbers they are seeing show that they are doing something right. Between the board and staff, over 95% of them have lived experience in the disease of addiction and, they believe, that is what

makes it work.

Stephanie Cameron, the center's executive director, had been working in the peer delivered services field for over a decade. She was shocked that this effective model was not in Lane County and when she started talking about it, learned she was not the only one wondering the same thing. She soon connected with a few colleagues (Chris Wig, Hunter Nelms) and together they worked to make the center a reality. With Measure 110 funding, the timing aligned just right and in November 2022, they opened.

The center is a no barrier space and designed to fill any delivery gap that needs filling. Anyone can access services, regardless of where they are in their mentorship – one-on-one, employment support services, connecting clients with housing resources, and helping folks access medical care. Having no barriers and being welcomed by people with lived experience allows people to let down walls they might carry in many other service spaces. It is these moments of vulnerability where willingness enters and healing begins.

For the employees, the work serves them as much as the clients. It is a living amends to themselves where they can turn their own trauma into an actual career – one where they can make a real difference in people's lives and support their families.

Moving forward they would love to continue their work training more peer support specialists with the hopes of opening up four more centers in the area, including one in the much needed Four Corners area, Springfield and a satellite office in Florence.

For fun, the team loves to check out the food trucks in the area together and also take part in local recovery events.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

Lifetime Achievement Award



Dr. Douglas Bovee
Lane County Methadone

Dr. Douglas Bovee, who has always been interested in how drugs interact with the brain, once thought he would start a career in pharmacology. However, an unexpected career stop at an alcohol treatment center helped him look at the same concept from a different angle. As he started working with various forms of medication assisted treatment, he saw people get better and the results were compelling.

In 1992, he moved to the area to be the medical director for Serenity Lane. Since then he has also worked with Emergence and the Center for Family Development. He is known in the community as a go-to expert on the subject of addiction medicine.

Today, in addition to the work he does with the Lane County Methadone Clinic, Dr. Bovee is a nationally recognized expert on nicotine and alcohol dependency, speaking all over the country on the subjects. He enjoys seeing people in the audience light up as they realize the possibilities and hopefulness that perhaps we can, collectively, help more people find their way out of this disease.

While he continues to work on the front line of SUD, with opiate addiction and now the fentanyl crisis, Dr. Bovee believes we have to provide more access to treatment on-demand, regardless of a person's ability to pay, in a residential setting. The people who suffer from substance use disorders have a brain disease but with time and proper care, treatment does work and they can take charge of their lives again. He is excited by many recent developments in the field, including over-the-counter naloxone.

The hundreds of stories Dr. Bovee hears from patients who have gotten better motivate his work. In his spare time, he enjoys spending time with his partner and travelling. He is looking forward to a bucket list trip to Europe that includes time in Rome and Paris, and walking the Amalfi Coast.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

Lifetime Achievement Award



Jim O'Rourke
Attorney

Jim O'Rourke understands that he holds a unique position in an often very vulnerable time in people's lives. As an attorney, working mostly with criminally accused clients with underlying causes of substance use disorders and trauma, he may be the only person they feel like they have on their team. As such, he tries to use the word "we" a lot, to remind them that they are not alone.

While Jim relishes the moments of success from his work connecting a client to treatment and being a part of their recovery story, he also has great pride in educating the legal system on how to do the same. He spent time reaching out to experts, like Joe Steiner, to learn more about how to help his clients. In this work, he realized that he could educate the judges – the very ones his clients found themselves in front of – about the disease of addiction. People do get better when judiciary and law enforcement work hand in hand with treatment.

This is where his advocacy work really began. He has fought to keep some legal consequences for drug possession so that there are appropriate intervention, treatment and recovery methods available for those who can not set themselves free from the prison of addiction without help. He helps people understand that they have a real opportunity to help people use this moment in the legal system to get the treatment they desperately need.

Beyond partnering with advocacy groups on the above, Jim is active in other areas of the recovery community. He is excited about his work with 4D recovery as one of the founding funders, and The Other Bar, a support group for recovered attorneys.

In his spare time, Jim loves being outside, hiking and sailing.

Thank You

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serenitylane.org/csa/form/



SERENITY LANE Celebrates 50 Years!

On May 3, 1973, Serenity Lane opened its doors to patients desperate to free themselves from alcoholism. Since that day, we have served over 67,000 people, saved countless lives and transformed generations of families. In an industry where treatment centers come and go, Serenity Lane has remained committed to the core belief that people are capable of recovery, that families can heal and that the Pacific Northwest deserves a regional provider with a continuum of care.

While our past provides the foundation upon which we stand, it is the future we are building that fills us with hope. We continue to innovate and to ensure we help our neighbors break free of Substance Use Disorders. We remind our communities that recovery lives here.