SERENITY LANE'S

Sixteenth Annual

Community Service Awards 2026

Wednesday | October 21, 2026

11:30am-1:00pm | The Venue

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A Word from Serenity Lane's President & CEO

Welcome to Serenity Lane's 16th Annual Community Service Awards.

Today, we gather to recognize individuals and organizations whose commitment helps make recovery possible for people facing substance use and behavioral health disorders. This event has become a meaningful tradition, celebrating those whose service, compassion, and advocacy strengthen our communities and change lives.

As the healthcare landscape continues to evolve, many people seeking treatment encounter challenges that can make care feel out of reach. This year, we have added new award categories to honor some of the people helping to remove those barriers and create pathways to hope and healing. We know that recovery extends far beyond the walls of a treatment center. Nearly 70 percent of people struggling with substance use disorders are employed, making workplaces, employee assistance programs, human resource professionals, healthcare advocates, and insurance representatives important partners in recovery. A compassionate conversation, thoughtful guidance, or assistance navigating a complicated system can make a life-changing difference for someone seeking help.

Today's honorees demonstrate the power of service in action. While many may view their efforts as simply part of their job, the support they provide helps individuals and families find solutions, access care, and envision a brighter future. They remind us that recovery is possible and that no one should have to face life's challenges alone.

Thank you for your dedication, your leadership, and your belief in the dignity and worth of every person. The stories we share today reflect the difference one person can make and inspire all of us to be champions of hope in our own communities.

Pete Kerns

Welcome



Emcees

Mary Reilly, Windermere Real Estate
Matt Templeman, KEZI

Invocation

Welcome

Pete Kerns

Community Service Awards

Lifetime Community Leadership Award

Lifetime Achievement Award

Employee Services Award

Remarks From Our Sponsor

Dave Baake, Chambers Construction

Unsung Hero Awards

Community Service Awards

Health Care Navigator Award

Addiction Professional Award

Health Care Professional Award

Mental Health Professional Award

Dwight Lee Community Light Award

Closing Remarks

2026 COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS



COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Lifetime Community Leadership Award



Karen L Ludwig, NCC, MAC, CADC III, LPC
Founder
New Priorities Family Services

For more than three decades, Karen Ludwig has been a driving force in behavioral health and recovery services throughout Central Oregon. A counselor, educator, entrepreneur, mentor, and advocate, she has dedicated her career to ensuring individuals and families can access the help they need when they need it most.

Originally from Portland, Karen moved to Central Oregon 30 years ago to establish a student assistance program at Redmond High School. What began as a commitment to supporting youth eventually grew into a lifelong mission of expanding access to behavioral health care. In 2008, she founded New Priorities Family Services, creating an organization built around the belief that no one seeking help should be turned away without support, guidance, or a path forward.

Karen was also one of the first professionals in Central Oregon to provide integrated treatment for individuals experiencing both mental health and substance use disorders, long before co-occurring treatment became a widely recognized model of care. Under her leadership, New Priorities grew from a small practice with just a handful of staff into a respected community resource serving children, adults, and families throughout the region.

Although she stepped down as Executive Director in 2025, Karen continues to supervise clinicians and mentor the next generation of behavioral health professionals. Her impact extends far beyond the organization she founded through the countless counselors she has guided, the programs she helped develop, and the thousands of lives touched by her work.

Karen is quick to share credit with her staff, whom she considers family, and remains inspired by their dedication and compassion. Looking ahead, she hopes to see greater investment in facilities, internships, and scholarship opportunities that expand access to care. Outside of work, she enjoys gardening, spending time with her 22 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren, and preparing to welcome her first great-great-grandchild later this year.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Lifetime Achievement Award



Tim Danforth
(1947-2026)

For more than four decades, Tim Danforth dedicated his life to helping others find hope, healing, and recovery. A respected mental health professional, recovery advocate, mentor, and longtime community volunteer, Tim's impact can be seen throughout Lane County's behavioral health community and in the countless lives he touched along the way.

After beginning his own recovery journey, Tim devoted his career to serving others. He worked for Lane County Mental Health for 18 years, helping develop the Co-Occurring Disorders Treatment Program and serving as a trainer for the State of Oregon's addiction treatment system. He later spent more than 25 years as a Behavioral Health Clinician with PeaceHealth, supporting individuals and families during some of their most challenging moments.

Tim carried that same spirit of service into the broader community. He served multiple terms on the boards of both Willamette Family and Serenity Lane. He also helped advance efforts to establish a recovery high school in Lane County. Friends and colleagues remember Tim as humble, compassionate, and deeply committed to helping others. A gifted musician, devoted husband, proud father, trusted mentor, and steadfast advocate for recovery, he approached everyone with kindness and respect.

Tim celebrated 43 years of sobriety before passing away in January 2026. His legacy lives on through the thousands of individuals he supported and the stronger recovery community he helped create. More than any title or accomplishment, Tim will be remembered for his unwavering belief that people can heal, grow, and reclaim meaningful lives.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Employee Services Award



Ervey Dominguez
Employment & Employee Relations Manager
Bright Wood Corporation

For decades, Ervey Dominguez has quietly demonstrated what community leadership looks like in action: showing up for people when they need support most. As Employment & Employee Relations Manager for Bright Wood Corporation, he helps hundreds of employees navigate workplace challenges, access resources, and find opportunities to succeed both personally and professionally.

Originally from Texas and raised in Madras, Oregon, Ervey first joined Bright Wood in 1987 before embarking on a 20-year career in law enforcement. That experience shaped his ability to remain calm under pressure, build trust with people from all walks of life, and approach difficult situations with compassion and respect. When he returned to Bright Wood, he brought those same qualities with him, helping create a workplace culture where employees feel supported rather than judged.

Colleagues describe Ervey as someone who genuinely cares about people. He is known for going beyond the expected, helping employees access treatment, navigate complex systems, and connect with the resources they need to move forward. One nominator recalled an employee who needed treatment while managing employment-related concerns. Throughout the process, Ervey protected the individual's privacy, coordinated support, and helped ensure the employee could focus on recovery while maintaining workplace stability.

Ervey believes the people he serves are good people who are often facing difficult circumstances and may not know where to turn for help. He is especially concerned about employees struggling with housing insecurity and financial hardship and wishes more resources were available to help individuals and families regain stability. Through his leadership, employees know they can ask for help and be met with understanding, encouragement, and practical support.

Humbled by this recognition, Ervey credits his family for inspiring his commitment to service. Influenced by his mother's lifelong caregiving and his wife's decades in healthcare, he has always believed that compassion, kindness, and helping others are responsibilities that come with good fortune. His commitment to those values continues to make a lasting difference throughout Oregon's recovery community.

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Unsung Hero AWARDS

2026 Unsung Heroes

Billy Anderson
Rose City Detox

Kris Freeze
Serenity Lane

Robert Flores
Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians

Chrissy Barnard
Restored Connections Peer Center

Brian Wright
Relief Nursery

"I'm an Unsung Hero in the fight against the disease of addiction."

Unsung Hero AWARDS



Billy Anderson

Executive Director
Rose City Detox

I am only here because of a very powerful God that is kind to me, my wife, and the recovery community. If it wasn't for my wife and a home group of men that choose to show up for me every week and show that recovery is possible despite the circumstances I would not have been able to accomplish anything. Grateful for this award, but even more grateful for the people that have held me up.



Kris Freeze

Lead Residential Treatment Specialist
Serenity Lane

I have been working with those battling substance use disorder for many years and as it seems there is no end in sight I will continue to battle right alongside of them. When I came to Oregon I thought I wanted to continue working as a primary counselor but after starting with Serenity Lane I fell in love with working as a residential treatment specialist. I get to do what I was meant to do not with one group but with each individual we serve.



Robert Flores, CRM

Peer Support 2
Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians

"Robert consistently goes out of his way to make sure his clients have the resources and support they need. He does more than simply provide information—he listens, encourages, advocates, and helps remove barriers. For example, when a client wanted to connect with a Sun Dance but did not know how to get involved or access the necessary support, Robert helped guide them through the process and connected them with the right people and resources. His dedication gave the client an opportunity to strengthen their cultural connection and find additional support in their recovery journey."

-Deja Ann Hermann

Unsung Hero AWARDS



Chrissy Barnard

Program Manager
Restored Connections Peer Center

I am deeply honored to receive the Serenity Lane Unsung Hero Award. While my name may be attached to this recognition, this award truly belongs to many people. I share it with my incredible team at Restored Connections, whose compassion, dedication, and belief in the people we serve inspire me every day. I also share it with my mentor and Executive Director, Stephanie Cameron, whose leadership, guidance, and unwavering belief in both our mission and in me have shaped the work I do. Most importantly, I share this award with my family, who are here today. They are the reason I got sober, the reason I found hope when I needed it most, and the reason I pursued a career that means so much to me. Their love and support changed the course of my life, and I would not be standing here without them. Working with people affected by substance use disorders has taught me that addiction does not define a person. Behind every struggle is a human being with strengths, dreams, and a story that deserves compassion rather than judgment. Recovery is not a straight path, and every step forward is an act of courage. If there is one thing I wish people understood, it is that recovery is possible. People do heal. Lives can be rebuilt. Families can reconnect.

What often makes the difference is having someone who believes in you when you are struggling to believe in yourself. Receiving this award is incredibly meaningful because I know firsthand that recovery can transform lives. I have had the privilege of witnessing that transformation in the people we serve and of experiencing it in my own life. I accept this recognition on behalf of everyone who shows up each day choosing hope, healing, and recovery. Thank you to Serenity Lane for this honor and for your commitment to helping individuals and families find their way forward.



Brian Wright

Peer Support
Relief Nursery

I have a connection through my lived experience to people suffering in substance use. I utilize the tools freely given to me. I believe everybody deserves an opportunity to recover. I truly love what I do and the people I work with. I will continue to provide the best service I can to our community.

2026 COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS





COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Health Care Navigator Award



Marcus Humphrey
Health and Wellness Lead
Sponsors, Inc.

Marcus has dedicated his career to helping individuals returning from incarceration navigate the complex path toward recovery, health, and stability. As Health & Wellness Team Lead at Sponsors, Inc., he works alongside participants as they rebuild their lives, connecting them with critical healthcare, behavioral health, and recovery resources.

Originally from Seattle, Marcus came to Eugene four and a half years ago and quickly discovered his passion for reentry and recovery support. Today, he serves as a Community Health Worker, Recovery Mentor, facilitator, and advocate, helping people overcome barriers that often stand between them and long-term success.

What sets Marcus apart is his willingness to walk beside participants every step of the way. Whether attending medical appointments, helping someone access mental health treatment, navigating complex healthcare systems, or simply offering encouragement during difficult moments, he ensures people never face challenges alone. Participants regularly ask for him by name and often describe his support as life-changing.

One participant arrived at Sponsors after spending years in a wheelchair following a leg amputation. Marcus coordinated care among providers, attended appointments and therapy sessions, and supported the individual throughout the process of receiving and learning to use a prosthetic leg. Today, that participant is employed and living independently.

Marcus believes the people he serves are among the most resilient individuals he has ever met. Inspired by his younger brother and driven by the example he hopes to set for his two sons, he remains committed to improving reentry, recovery, and behavioral health services for those seeking a second chance.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Addiction Professional Award



Lindsey Hathaway

Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor
Rock Recovery

Lindsey Hathaway believes recovery begins by meeting people exactly where they are. As a Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor, she is known for creating a safe, supportive environment where individuals and families feel respected, valued, and empowered to move forward.

Originally from Roseburg, Lindsey's journey in behavioral health has included roles as a mentor, supervisor, and counselor, supporting individuals at every stage of recovery. Today, she serves as a Primary Counselor at Rock Recovery, helping clients navigate treatment, build healthy coping skills, and discover hope for the future.

Lindsey is especially passionate about supporting women, parents working toward reunification with their children, and individuals facing multiple barriers to recovery. She approaches each person with compassion and a belief that they are not broken, but capable of writing their own story and creating lasting change.

Colleagues consistently praise Lindsey's collaborative nature and unwavering commitment to those she serves. Whether coordinating care, navigating treatment barriers, or celebrating milestones, she remains engaged every step of the way. Her warmth, authenticity, and genuine encouragement strengthen not only the lives of her clients but also the recovery community around her.

Receiving this award is particularly meaningful to Lindsey because it represents the support and opportunities that helped her discover her own purpose in service to others. Looking ahead, she hopes to expand access to transportation and recovery support services, helping more individuals overcome practical barriers to treatment and healing.

Outside of work, Lindsey enjoys spending time with her husband and three children, fostering dogs, kayaking, fishing, camping, and making memories with family and friends.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Health Care Professional Award



Drew Williams
Founder and Psychiatrist
NorthStar Psychiatry

Dr. Andrew Williams has dedicated his career to expanding access to compassionate, innovative mental health and addiction treatment. As a psychiatrist, educator, and founder of NorthStar Psychiatry, he has become a trusted resource for individuals facing some of the most complex mental health, trauma, and substance use challenges.

Originally trained as an art therapist, Dr. Williams was drawn to medicine through a fascination with the human brain and a desire to help people build meaningful lives. His work in underserved communities, including rural Arizona, Alaska, and psychiatric emergency services in Portland, reinforced his commitment to serving individuals who often face significant barriers to care. In 2020, he founded NorthStar Psychiatry to expand access to comprehensive behavioral healthcare throughout Oregon. Along with traditional psychiatric services, NorthStar provides specialized treatments including addiction medicine, Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS), and Spravato therapy for individuals with complex needs.

Board certified in both Emergency Psychiatry and Addiction Medicine, Dr. Williams is known for his nonjudgmental, trauma-informed approach. He believes addiction is not a moral failing but a human condition deserving of dignity, understanding, and effective treatment. Patients and colleagues alike value his ability to see the whole person rather than simply a diagnosis.

As a professor at OHSU, Dr. Williams is equally passionate about mentoring future healthcare professionals. Through teaching, he helps students better understand the connection between neuroscience, mental health, addiction, and humanity.

Outside of work, he enjoys fishing, bird hunting, spending time with his two hunting dogs, and creating handcrafted metalwork for family and friends.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Mental Health Professional Award



Katie De Vito

Homeless Outreach Coordinator/Case Manager
Deschutes County Health Services

Katie De Vito has dedicated her career to ensuring that some of Central Oregon's most vulnerable community members are seen, heard, and supported. Through her work with Deschutes County Health Services Homeless Outreach Services Team, she helps individuals experiencing serious mental illness, co-occurring disorders, and chronic homelessness access the care, resources, and stability they need to move toward lives that reflect their own goals and values.

Originally from Connecticut, Katie came to Central Oregon in 2016 as an AmeriCorps volunteer. Her early work at Bethlehem Inn reinforced what she had long known: she wanted to dedicate her career to helping others. Katie initially imagined a future in healthcare but quickly discovered her passion for supporting individuals whose needs often fall between traditional systems of care. Today, while pursuing her Master of Social Work degree, she continues to advocate for some of the community's most vulnerable residents.

Katie's work combines outreach, mental health support, resource coordination, and relentless advocacy. She specializes in working with individuals experiencing serious and persistent mental health considerations and co-occurring disorders, helping them access treatment, housing opportunities, healthcare services, and long-term support. Her approach is grounded in patience and relationship-building, recognizing that trust is often the first and most important step toward recovery.

Colleagues admire Katie's ability to see the humanity and potential in every person she serves. She believes that those struggling with mental illness, addiction, and homelessness are valued members of the community whose resilience, kindness, and determination are often overlooked. She is continually inspired by the strength and generosity of the individuals she works alongside, as well as by the dedicated team that supports this important work and one another.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Dwight Lee Community Light Award



Maria Luebbe

Behavioral Health Specialist
Deschutes County Behavioral Health –
Deschutes County Stabilization Center

For those navigating mental illness, addiction, homelessness, and involvement with the justice system, Maria Luebbe is often a steady source of hope.

As a Behavioral Health Specialist with Deschutes County's Stabilization Center, she meets people where they are, whether that is in shelters, encampments, correctional settings, treatment programs, or throughout the community. Colleagues describe her as a beacon of light whose compassion, energy, and unwavering belief in others help people find pathways toward healing and stability.

Born in Eugene and raised throughout the West Coast, Maria has called Central Oregon home for much of her life. She describes herself as a bridge builder, helping people connect to housing, treatment, recovery resources, and the supports needed to move forward. More importantly, she helps individuals build their own "life bridges," empowering them to pursue recovery and personal goals on their own terms.

Maria's approach is deeply influenced by her own lived experience. After overcoming addiction, homelessness, legal challenges, and profound personal struggles, she made the life-changing decision to seek help and embrace recovery. Now with more than 18 years in recovery, she uses her experiences to mentor, encourage, and walk alongside others facing similar challenges. Her ability to combine honesty, humor, accountability, and genuine care helps people see possibilities in themselves they may have forgotten existed.

What Maria treasures most is witnessing the moment when hope returns and someone begins to believe that change is possible. She believes recovery begins with love, connection, and the reassurance that no one has to face life's darkest moments alone.

Outside of work, Maria enjoys spending time with her husband, David, their large and growing family, including ten grandchildren, and a lively household of pets. Guided by deep faith, gratitude, and a heart for service, she continues to inspire hope wherever she goes.

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Thank you for joining us for the
16th Annual Community Service Awards!

For information about the awards
or Serenity Lane please visit

SerenityLane.org





SERENITY LANE®

Serenity Lane is a nonprofit substance use disorder treatment center that has served individuals and families across Oregon for more than 50 years. We provide whole person care that recognizes recovery as a highly individual process and meets people where they are, without judgment.

Our comprehensive continuum of care includes withdrawal management, residential treatment, and outpatient services offered at six locations throughout the state. Serenity Lane's statewide presence increases access to treatment while supporting individuals who may be balancing work, family, and community responsibilities. Most services are covered by major insurance providers, helping reduce barriers to care.

Treatment begins with thoughtful, comprehensive assessments that consider substance use, mental health, peer support needs, and other factors that may impact recovery. This approach allows our medical and clinical teams to develop personalized, integrated treatment plans that support more effective care and long-term recovery outcomes. Family involvement is encouraged when appropriate, recognizing the important role connection and support play in healing. A robust alumni program offers a lifetime of resources, community, and connection.