



NEWS RELEASE: December 2, 2014
Green Ribbon Initiatives AWARD

Green Ribbon Initiatives, a non-profit corporation founded in the spring of 2013 is pleased to announce recognition of a third award. Recognition is being given to a public private partnership between the Eagan Athletic Association (EAA) and the City of Eagan for partnering in a way that enhances recreational opportunities for the youth of the community at significant savings to community parents, families and taxpayers.

The partnership has been in place for a number of years and is currently represented by Mr. Jim Howe, president of the EAA and Ms. Juli Seydell Johnson, Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Eagan.

The EAA is a nonprofit association currently hosting 11 different sports and approximately 7,500 participant experiences annually, with participants ranging from kindergarten to high school in age with a limited preschool age component. 1,800 to 3,000 adult volunteers support the association programs at any given time.

The partnership consists of shared facilities and costs for the benefit of the greater Eagan community. The City is able to reduce costs by having this recreational programming provided by the EAA while the EAA gets regular access to fields and facilities that it could not provide on its own. Numerous City parks benefit from storage buildings donated to the City by the EAA and used by both the City and the EAA. As another example benefiting the community, significant development at Goat Hill Park has been funded by the EAA and turned over to the City for its use.

Participants (youth and adult) interact on teams to create community which is reinforced when these same participants meet in the broader community and when they reconnect in the next season of sport or the next team experience. This partnership affects all ages and is demonstrated in multiple community connections through an increased knowledge of other Eagan residents, a greater sense of community and belonging, and a high degree of participation and commitment.

The partnership works diligently to affirm its participants and has continually increased its professionalism for the benefit of participants and the community. The EAA has demonstrated continuous financial accountability, with responsible budgets and appropriate reserves.

Healthy partnerships that engage the community help build community. The EAA and the City of Eagan partnership is an excellent example of the benefits of such partnerships illustrating the truth that the result of combined efforts is greater than the sum of individual contributions.

Green Ribbon Initiatives desires to see community engagement awards that:

- Increase the sense of community in Eagan.
- Increase the ability to improve the community at all levels.
- Increase the utilization of volunteers, especially the aging in place.
- Increase awareness of community engagement by a wider circle of persons.
- Recognize community engagement by increasing volunteerism and voter turn out.

Green Ribbon Initiatives was formed for the purpose of identifying and celebrating significant community engagement initiatives and partnerships in Eagan. Awards will be presented to exemplary initiatives in Eagan which build relationships and a collective sense of community in Eagan while promoting sustainable action that strengthens community engagement.

- The recognition process is meant to support and encourage the cultivation, motivation and coordination of multiple levels of community resources available to strengthen community.
- Community engagement is understood as individuals and organizations working together on common interests for mutual benefit and in the interest of the larger community.
- Green Ribbon Initiatives seeks to weave engagement into the community fabric and address barriers to engagement when they are identified.

This partnership is exemplary and significant and meets all selection criteria; we are pleased and excited to make this award.

Green Ribbon Leadership Team

Jim Borgschatz (president), Gene VanOverbeke, Tom Hedges, Arleen Sullivan, Dave Unmacht, Paula Forbes, Don Hoeft

More information about Green Ribbon Initiatives Awards, nomination forms, application forms, and ways to help can all be found at www.greenribbon.info.

Green Ribbon Initiatives continues to solicit community partnerships to recognize as well as friends who are interested in being financial partners and in providing other support.

Contact James Borgschatz for more information
651-454-8848 or jpb@greenribbon.info

