



Green Ribbon Initiatives AWARD

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Green Ribbon Initiatives, a non-profit corporation founded in the spring of 2013, is pleased to announce its recognition of significant community partnerships. Recognition is being given to partnerships between Easter Lutheran Church and various organizations addressing a wide range of community needs. Easter Lutheran assistance is provided through financial contributions, program space, providing volunteers and by raising awareness of needs in our community.

Partnerships with Loaves and Fishes, The Open Door and Fare For All, help address community hunger by providing healthy meals for community members, access to a food shelf, and opportunity to purchase food at fair and inexpensive rates. Easter Lutheran partners with The Sheridan Project, Oak Ridge Elementary and Black Hawk Middle School providing weekend food for needy children and families of students.

Tree House provides programming for challenged and at-risk youth providing life changing opportunities for the most challenged and marginalized youth. Reaching Up Ministries provides homework help, tutoring and enrichment activities for students from Oak Ridge, Green Leaf, and Thomas Lake Elementary Schools and Falcon Ridge and Black Hawk Middle Schools.

Counseling Services to youth and families are provided in partnership with Cedar Valley Counseling. Easter Lutheran provides a leadership role and participates with the Homeless Coalition in providing shelter for people experiencing homelessness. This partnership incorporates the broader faith community as well as Dakota County Social Services.

Partner contributions include program management, financial donations, fund raising efforts, volunteering, promotion and collaborative events.

Community engagement connects people from all walks of life. Connected communities enjoy a higher standard of living and improved overall wellness. These recognized partnerships help in meeting basic needs, enhancing lives, and providing opportunity, and everyone benefits from viewing the world through the eyes of others and in serving others.

Easter Lutheran Church and its partners clearly demonstrate that partnerships – ordinary people working together – can and do accomplish more than any one entity can in meeting everyday needs in the community. These partnerships demonstrate that not all problems and challenges need to depend on governmental intervention to make a difference in the lives of citizens.

Easter Lutheran Church desires to see its members engage in the community around them serving both its mission -- *To grow in faith and carry on the work of Jesus Christ*. As well as its vision – *Transforming Hearts and Lives for Christ* carried out in part by blurring the lines between church & community.

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 turnout.

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.

These partnerships are 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, Brenda Johnson, Dave Unmacht, Mark Streed, 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.