



## 2019 HONOREE CELEBRATION

Join us as we recognize those who have made a difference in our community in 2018!

### NONPROFIT OF THE YEAR NOMINEES

#### BLUE SPRUCE HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Blue Spruce Habitat for Humanity has enabled 41 families or individuals to obtain affordable housing in our mountain communities since 1990. Homeowners must be income-qualified, work on their own homes and homes of others, and be able to afford a mortgage. Habitat provides workforce housing, strengthening local employers since it's hard to find employees who live in the Evergreen area. These homeowners also get involved in the community because they live here. Habitat energizes community groups that care about affordable housing to volunteer. In 2018 over 1,300 volunteers contributed 8,285 hours helping to build homes or working in the ReStore. Thanks to the ReStore 110 tons of materials were diverted from landfills in 2018.

#### BOOTSTRAPS

Higher education is fundamental to being successful in today's world. Many families struggle to keep up with the ever-increasing financial burden of sending their children to college. Bootstraps Scholarships and Loans assists families by alleviating some of this financial burden. Bootstraps awards scholarships and interest-free loans to graduating high school seniors. All scholarships and loans are funded by local individuals, businesses, civic groups, and private foundations. In 2018, 56 new and continuing students received a combined total of \$222,000 in scholarships and loans. Since Bootstraps was founded in 1945, more than \$3.8 million in scholarships and loans have been distributed to over 1,800 students. The mission of Bootstraps, with the support of the community, is to eliminate financial barriers to continuing education for students of the mountain community.

## **CENTER FOR THE ARTS EVERGREEN**

**NOT ELIGIBLE FOR THE 2019 HONOREE CELEBRATION (PREVIOUS WINNER!)**

The center supports Evergreen and its surrounding communities in the visual and performing arts, bringing the arts and community together. Center For The Arts Evergreen hosts classes, workshops, exhibitions and cultural events.

## **DRIVE SMART**

Drive Smart provides much-needed education regarding safe driving practices for all ages. Their fundraising events are wildly popular and unite our community. They integrate education with exciting events including the Revel the Rockies Marathon, and Triple Bypass. Drive Smart is an important community asset.

## **ELK RUN ASSISTED LIVING**

Elk Run is a nonprofit, faith based organization here in our beautiful mountain community of Evergreen, that offers assisted living and respite services. Respite services are an option for families who need guilt-free time away from caregiving or for the person who needs additional rehabilitation before going home. They have a tranquil setting in the foothills of the mountains and have been in this community for 17 years. In Colorado, their care community helps residents celebrate life as they live it to the fullest. Elk Run residents are an active group and they have a great zest for life.

## **EVERGREEN'S ALLIANCE FOR SUSTAINABILITY + YOU (EAS+Y)**

EAS+Y has been very active in the community this year by bringing a composting program to Evergreen for the first time, expanding Tree Recycling, growing their Zero Waste Services, and helping Green Teams find success in schools along with continuing to support the community gardens and various other sustainability initiatives. With partnerships all around town, EAS+Y plays a valuable role in our community by providing us with many opportunities to take action and make a difference in all areas of sustainability. We all want to keep Evergreen "Green" and EAS+Y is helping us make it happen!

## **EVERGREEN CHRISTIAN OUTREACH**

Evergreen Christian Outreach (EChO) made a huge impact on lives of those in need in 2018. The Food Bank distributed 314,659 pounds of food via 7,357 individual client visits, a 17% increase. Summer lunches were provided to 69 families and over 573 holiday meals were provided at Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. The Adopt-a-Child program provided Christmas gifts to 107 children. Client Services provided nearly \$78,000 in emergency assistance. Our Shelter Program greatly expanded service to the homeless by raising our temperature threshold to 32°. We have also assisted several homeless get jobs and secure housing. The Resale Store raised funds to support EChO programs with over \$150,000 in net income. The Job Program provided 1,040 training services to those in our community seeking employment and to seniors to improve their computer skills. EChO continues to expand its service to Evergreen's needy by executing its new Strategic Plan for growth.

## **EVERGREEN LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Evergreen Lutheran Church has been a focal point of ministry and service to Evergreen for more than 60 years. Evergreen Lutheran's budget consistently includes benevolent commitments to many nonprofits in the area. Imagine a nonprofit supporting other nonprofits that they may accomplish their good work, too. Evergreen Lutheran has, for the last 7 years, hosted with 6 other churches, an Alternative Gift Fair. This event garners more than \$100,000 for nonprofit vendors in a mere 13 hours each year. ELC has hosted an annual Grove Sale for 26 years. In that time ELC has donated ALL the sale's profits (about 1/2 million dollars) back to the community.

## **MONTESSORI SCHOOL OF EVERGREEN (MSE)**

For over 40 years MSE has been growing great human beings, by offering students high-caliber Montessori education (a method that research shows has lasting impacts on cognitive and social/emotional growth), as well as impactful experiential learning that takes academic content and puts it in a real-world context. MSE's 40-year history of excellence in Montessori education includes serving as a national model and internship site for teachers in training. With the incorporation of day field-studies, overnight trips, internships and mentorships MSE builds a well-rounded and robust educational experience. MSE graduates are sought after at the high schools they attend because they bring not only the academic preparation, but also the social/emotional maturity that makes them contributing members of the schools and organizations they are part of.

## **MOUNT EVANS HOME HEALTH CARE & HOSPICE**

**NOT ELIGIBLE FOR THE 2019 HONOREE CELEBRATION (PREVIOUS WINNER!)**

Mount Evans Home Health Care & Hospice is National award-winning, and state recognized for superior home health care and hospice services. A true community service for those health issues and tough emotional times when help is needed. No one is turned away based on their ability (or not) to pay for assistance received. Mount Evans Home Health Care & Hospice is a team of dedicated health care professionals and support staff who assist each other with providing over-the-top care for clients within the greater Evergreen area. A local treasure with nationally recognized professionalism.

## **OVATION WEST PERFORMING ARTS**

This year, the Evergreen Chorale rebranded as Ovation West Performing Arts. Established in 1972, the organization has grown and now serves the community in 6 areas: the Evergreen Chorale, Ovation West Musical Theatre, Altezza Chamber Choir, Summer Music Camp, Shining Stars Concert Series, and Center Stage. They create a wide range of musical experiences which impact all ages: toddlers participating in a parent-child music class at Center Stage, youth attending camp or acting in musicals, singers from ages 14 to 88 in the Chorale, and patrons of all ages attending performances. Ovation West opens Center Stage as the performance home for the Evergreen Players, Evergreen Children's Chorale and other groups for meetings and events, donates a portion of revenue from its musicals to nonprofits, and offers discounted tickets to students & seniors.

## **ROTARY CLUB OF EVERGREEN**

NOT ELIGIBLE FOR THE 2019 HONOREE CELEBRATION (PREVIOUS WINNER!)

Evergreen Rotary Club and their membership volunteer in the local community for many events including Recycle Day, Salvation Army Bell Ringing campaign, Foothills Home, Garden and Lifestyle Show, EHS Interact Club, and the ECHO Food Bank.

## **SCL HEALTH LUTHERAN MEDICAL CENTER**

SCL Health- Lutheran Medical Center plays a unique role in promoting health and caring for people throughout their life from birth to end-of-life. Of the \$44 million Lutheran provided in community benefit (2017), \$38 million supported charity care and funding shortfalls from Medicaid programs, directly benefitting many Evergreen residents. Lutheran has served the Denver metro area including the mountain community of Evergreen for over 100 years.

Innovation, women's care, leading edge cardiac/stroke care and a senior emergency room are areas of excellence. Nationally, the hospital was named one of Americas 50 best hospitals in 2018. Patients and family members often express gratitude for the care and compassion offered by physicians, nurses and care team many who call Evergreen home. Health education and outreach programs provide additional benefit to the community.

## **SENIORS' RESOURCE CENTER**

The Seniors' Resource Center's comprehensive program includes such services as bus pickup of Seniors for doctor appointments and grocery shopping, Meals on Wheels, educational classes and safe caregiving at the Yellow House Center; free Friday luncheons and organized field trips as well as purposeful social and fun activities for Seniors. The personnel and volunteers are welcoming, kind, helpful, and respectful of Seniors with any kind of affliction and pay scale. The host of local volunteers at the Seniors' Resource Center are the epitome of genuine service - a true example of what is loved about the Evergreen community.

## **WOMEN OF EVERGREEN BUSINESSES (WEB)**

WEB has continued every year to help families and individuals in the mountain community who are going through a crisis. They have paid for medical treatment, paid bills and provided cash. They have also done large fundraisers to support other Nonprofits in the mountain community. They've raised funds to support veterans and their families, suicide prevention and awareness, and women and children victims of domestic violence. The members of WEB are local women business owners and professionals who are leaders in our mountain community.

# VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR NOMINEES

## **BRYAN MCFARLAND**

Bryan is the new Chairman of the Board for Evergreen Rodeo. He has worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make the rodeo even more successful than in has been in the past. He leads an all-volunteer committee and is breathing new life into an Evergreen tradition.

## **JOE NIEMEYER**

Joe is extremely active in our community in a "behind the scenes" kind of way. He is an active member of EChO and serves as a volunteer computer skills instructor and business mentor/consultant. He serves as the coordinator of the homeless shelter program for his church and spends nights at the church when they host the homeless shelter program. As a member of several boards, he participates in numerous committees, attends multiple meetings every month, and volunteers his time in several capacities. He is an avid photographer, and posts his photographs on several local sites, always with detailed explanations that educate as well as delight those who read the posts.

## **KATE HIGGINS**

Kate Higgins serves on multiple boards in Evergreen including the Evergreen Chamber Board and the Leadership Evergreen Board. She runs the Early Morning Leads Group and does a ton of volunteer work for the Mountain Metro Association of REALTORS (MMAR). Kate Higgins owns and helps manage Evergreen Rentals and is a licensed mortgage broker with Northpointe Bank.

## **MICHAEL LANIER**

A longtime resident, Michael puts kindness, compassion & generosity into action. He is an active member of the Boogie Brain Trust, a group of volunteers who produce the Boogie at the Barn. He is the first to raise his hand to help, from parking to asking people to give. He does it with a knack for building relationships, helping everyone to feel valued & inspiring those around him. He also exemplifies his dedication to community as a member of Mountain Foothills Rotary. He is a past recipient of the Club's Rotarian of the Year Award for his many contributions for which he does not seek recognition. In addition to volunteering, Mike is generous with his financial support of Rotary too, donating significantly to worthwhile projects. Michael also is a strong supporter of EChO and the Special Needs program. He is an ambassador to the community who is focused on building goodwill, creating meaningful relationships, and improving the lives of those in need.

## **MICHELLE O'LAUGHLIN**

Michelle O'Laughlin represents the best characteristics of a community volunteer. She is passionate about and committed to several local organizations and inspires others to give of themselves. A former teacher at Wilmot, Michelle has always been involved in community issues. She serves on the board of directors of Ovation West Performing Arts and coordinates their volunteers for the Triple Bypass and chairs the fundraising committee, as well as singing in the Evergreen Chorale. Michelle also volunteers as a coach for Girls On The Run, and with the Evergreen Shelter Program, EAS+Y, Into Your Hands Africa, and at events for groups such as the Evergreen Players. She is always ready to help out, and to gently persuade others to do the same. Her roots in the community go deep from her many years as a teacher and volunteer. Evergreen is a better place because of Michelle's energy and the talent she shares with so many organizations.

## **TIM EAGAN**

Tim Eagan is generous with his time and talent. This person brings light and life to many incredible charitable and community events. His dedication for the past 9 years with the St Baldrick's Foundation has raised nearly \$100K for children's cancer research, \$70K of which was raised in Evergreen in the past 2 yrs. He has dedicated many hours directing the annual recycle day, cleaning up downtown, collecting trash on Evergreen pkwy, and pioneered a group of volunteers to clean up garbage dumped on Squaw Pass. He participates in several events that raise funds for non-profits and the less fortunate. He is this year's home show director going above and beyond adding many new features. He has served on various local Boards. For his undying dedication to service and volunteerism, determination to reach out to those that are not as privileged as ourselves and desire to share his talents with those around us to make a positive change in our community and our world.

## **VALLI CROCKETT**

**ALSO NOMINATED FOR AMASSADOR OF THE YEAR**

Valli has spent a significant amount of volunteering for the Elks Lodge as well as other local organizations: In particular, the Dictionary Project which provides 3000 dictionaries to local school children. She is collecting used bags for another fundraising effort through the Muddy Buck. Valli regularly volunteers at Evergreen Chamber community events and also works as one their Ambassadors. Valli works at Bergen Peak Realty in Evergreen.

## **WENDY MCCORD**

Wendy is a volunteer in our community with leadership roles in a variety of nonprofits. She is a Girl Scout troop leader with 40+ young women who in turn all make an impact in our community. She volunteers with Parmalee Elementary, Evergreen Middle School and Evergreen High School. She's also involved in nearly every performing arts organization in Evergreen (Children's Chorale, Players and Ovation West Performing Arts) and helps raise funds and spread awareness of the many cultural opportunities in our community. She's never shy to take on a new project to benefit these nonprofits, or take on a leadership role when she knows it will make a difference. She's all about collaboration and making the world a better place!

# AMBASSADOR OF THE YEAR NOMINEES

## RUSSELL HAMMOND

Russell Hammond served on the Evergreen Chamber Board of Directors for three years, and was the Evergreen Chamber Ambassador Chair during 2018. Russell Hammond has owned Big O Tires for several years and has a big heart he has under his silly exterior. Big O Tires is a well-run business and an important part of the community.

## MICHELE ROBBINS

Michele Robbins goes above and beyond for her new member mentees. She strives to make them feel welcome to the Evergreen Chamber and upholds the chamber mission statement- helping promote business in our Evergreen Community.

## BRUCE ANDERSON

Bruce Anderson is a dedicated Ambassador for the Chamber. He is active with Ribbon Cuttings, Mixers, and not only attends, but also sponsors many Chamber events and programs. He is always one of the first ones to jump in and offer his assistance to the Chamber and it's members, all while maintaining a successful insurance agency with Farms Insurance.

## SUSANNE ROBERT

Susanne Robert is a longstanding member of the Evergreen Chamber Ambassador Team. She constantly goes above and beyond on behalf of the Evergreen Chamber: attending member events, helping out at Chamber Community events, supporting new Ambassadors to the team and most importantly supporting our New Members by reaching out to them at our Mixers and Breakfast events, to name but a few. Susanne volunteers her time to many different nonprofits. Susanne has an open, friendly and professional approach to her volunteering duties and is a dedicated member of the EACC Ambassador Team who can always be relied on.

## VALLI CROCKET

ALSO NOMINATED FOR VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR.

Valli Crockett is a member of the Evergreen Chamber of Commerce, Women of Evergreen Business, and Evergreen Elks Lodge. She attends tons of mixers and ribbon cuttings. She also dedicates a lot of time and effort to recruiting individuals and businesses to the Chamber. Active member of the community in Evergreen. Very involved in the activities, galas, mixers, etc that the Chamber hosts. Also volunteers at most large Evergreen events.

# YOUNG PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR NOMINEES

## **TIM ANDERSEN – ROOFING OUTFITTERS**

Tim Andersen is a hardworking, customer service driven second-generation roofing contractor who lives and works in beautiful Evergreen. His strong roots in the industry and service in the United States Marine Corps shaped his approach to business today. His community is massively important to him, as evidenced in his restoring the iconic Evergreen A-Frame off of Evergreen Parkway. He spends his free time traveling with his wife, snowboarding, and mountain biking. He loves how the new building has drawn visitors of all types to stop by and say hello.

## **MARISA RODERO – ROOTS MEDICINE ACUPUNCTURE & HERBAL CLINIC**

Marisa Roderero earned her Master's of Science in Oriental Medicine at Southwest Acupuncture College in Boulder, CO. This 4-year program of over 3,300 hours included training in acupuncture, herbal prescribing, and adjunctive modalities such as moxibustion, shiatsu massage and nutrition. She is a nationally certified, licensed acupuncturist and Diplomate in Oriental Medicine. She is the owner of Roots Medicine Acupuncture & Herbal Clinic.

## **CASEY CLAUNCH- U.S. BANK**

Casey Claunch volunteers to help with the Evergreen Chamber Newsletter every quarter. She is always present at chamber events including Ribbon Cuttings and Mixers. She is always willing to lend a helping hand.

## **TREVOR NOEL- WANDER UNLIMITED**

Trevor Noel owns Wander Unlimited, a creative agency specializing in solving problems for Colorado brands with creative, innovative and human solutions. He has a passion for delivering strategic and breakthrough creative work.

## **ALEX ROBERTS- BUFFALO PARK DENTISTRY**

Dr. Roberts has a foundation in comprehensive dentistry including crowns and bridges, cosmetic dentistry, partials and dentures, root canals and oral surgery. In 2010, Dr. Roberts practiced in Arvada prior to purchasing Buffalo Park Dentistry from Dr. Powell. Alex believes in advancing the health of his patients and supporting our community. One of his dental school highlights was traveling to Nicaragua to provide dental care to rural and underserved populations.



# YOUTH OF THE YEAR NOMINEES

## LILY MOTT

Lily Mott is currently developing and directing Lily's Laptops, a Nonprofit fund in coordination with Peruvian Hearts. Lily raised \$10,000, traveled to Peru, and provided all thirty scholars with laptops as well as designed and internship program in which scholars can travel to Colorado for cultural and linguistic immersion. She has done a lot of community service with Rotary- from assisting with Rotary's marketing, to being a youth advisor for Rotary Club's mental health initiative. Lily is also a member of the Jefferson County Student Health Advisory Counsel, a member of Congressional District Two's Youth Advisory Counsel, and Student Body President at Evergreen High School.

## SYDNEY GILBERT

Sydney Gilbert is a member of the Jeffco Student Health Advisory Council, which works to improve the health of all Jeffco students. During her time on the council, she collected data for a project that will improve student-teacher relationships and reduce student stress. Sydney is also a member of the Blue Spruce Key Club, and Evergreen High School Interact Club. She was an Intern with the Jared Polis for Colorado campaign, which later merged with Colorado Democrats where she recruited and trained volunteers/new interns. As a Evergreen High School Student Senator she helped plan school dances, assemblies, and fundraisers for the school and community.

## CURRAN ANDERSON

Curran Anderson was one of the students chosen by the Jeffco School District to be a Peer Leader for a campaign called Sources of Strength. As a Peer Leader, Curran has been equipped and trained to connect struggling students with staff who can help them, as well as working with other Peer-Leaders to plan campaigns that will encourage kids to seek help when they need it. As a youth at Evergreen Lutheran Church (ELC), he participates in youth group, serves in worship & on mission trips around the United States and abroad. He also actively participates in the Mountain Backpack Program, which helps by feeding over 150 hungry kids each week. As a Boy Scout, Curran's Eagle Scout project involves building a propane-powered fire pit on the grounds of ELC in order to create a welcoming community space.

## KRISTA CHOATE

Krista Choate is a junior at Evergreen High School. Krista is a student activist as well as an active member of our community. She is the co-organizer of March on the NRA in Denver. She also spoke at and organized the unveiling of "The Last Lockdown" statue at the state capitol building. She is also the stage manager for the plays/musicals at EHS and also works backstage at The Evergreen Players. Krista is an upstanding member of Evergreen.

## **SARAH CHRISTENSEN**

Sarah Christensen lives in Evergreen and is a student at Evergreen Montessori School. She is a leader at school and involved in a variety of volunteer opportunities in our community. She volunteers at Elk Run as well as being a caring member of the Evergreen Children's Chorale. She makes every effort to help fellow members and the organization.

# **LEADER OF THE YEAR NOMINEES**

## **ELLEN O'CONNOR- EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR EVERGREEN PARK AND RECREATION DISTRICT**

In 2018 Ellen led the EPRD board, staff and community members on a journey to go for a bond and mill levy to improve facilities for our community that in the end failed by just a few hundred votes. She started the year putting together with staff a needs assessment, costs, risks, options, requirements. She then facilitated multiple community meetings to get feed back both positive and negative to insure the best package possible was presented. Many times she had to go back to staff and price out options. Many times she had to meet with our community to answer questions, get feedback and re-present. Ellen did not do the work alone but she was a true leader in pulling people and information together to benefit our all ages. She always maintained a positive attitude. Even when the going got tough she would say “in my heart I just want to do what is right for this community today and in the future”.

## **RABBI JAMIE ARNOLD- CONGREGATION BETH EVERGREEN**

Rabbi Jamie has been very visible and involved in the Evergreen community. His passion for interfaith cooperation and dialogue is further evidenced by his leadership as vice president of The Interfaith Alliance of Colorado (TIA-CO) and in convening, and serving with, the local Evergreen Interfaith Group, the group responsible for starting AtHome, (an affordable housing initiative). Arnold also spearheaded the effort to create emergency shelter for Evergreen's homeless population. The Emergency Shelter Program is now an interfaith effort comprised of several churches that open their doors overnight when the temperature drops below 30 degrees. Rabbi Jamie also serves as a volunteer chaplain with the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department and is also the in-house song-leader and story teller at The Learning Center Preschool in Evergreen and has been playing his guitar and singing with their preschoolers for over 10 years.

## **MATTHEW CORMIER- PRINCIPAL AT WILMOT ELEMENTARY**

Matthew Cormier is the “lucky principal,” as he always says, of Wilmot Elementary. For Matt personally, his son was taught by the teachers at Wilmot, his daughter is a current student, and he feels strongly that his work is, to quote Matt, “a chance to serve the community I love and educate my neighbor's children.” Matt has led the school to achieve the John Irwin School of Excellence award for academic achievement over time. The following programs have been implemented and/or fully supported by Matt through Wilmot: Community Garden built in partnership with EPRD, EAS+Y and Jeffco Schools; The Green Team, also in partnership with EAS+Y; many Health and Wellness Initiatives; Mountain Backpacks; recreational and childcare partnerships with EPRD; the Wetzel Family Foundation & Jefferson County for multi-use fields; supporter of growing the arts at EMS and EHS including the musicals and Astronomy Club.