



*Strong Organizations ... Strong Youth*

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## News Release

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For Immediate Release

### **U.P. Service Awards honor volunteers, organizations and businesses**

**MARQUETTE** – The U.P. Volunteer Network (UPVN) is proud to announce the recipients of the second annual U.P. Service Awards which recognize outstanding volunteer efforts and inspire others to give of their time, talents and treasure. Honorees chosen in six categories are invited to attend the U.P. Nonprofit Conference at Northern Michigan University, October 22, 2010, where they will be honored at a luncheon program.

“All of the nominations were compelling, and the judges had a difficult time choosing one recipient to highlight in each category,” said Jaime Engvall, AmeriCorps VISTA for the UPVN. “In an effort to honor all of our amazing volunteers, each nominee will receive a certificate of recognition and will be listed in the program at the U.P. Nonprofit Conference.”

Award categories and recipients are:

#### **Youth: Douglas Lundstrom of Sault Ste. Marie**

The Youth Category is reserved for volunteers under 21. Douglas Lundstrom, 11, is a student at Sault Area Middle School. Douglas is an advocate for those with Prader-Willi Syndrome (PWS), a rare genetic disorder which affects the pituitary and hypothalamus causing various symptoms including a constant sense of hunger. Rising above the challenges posed by PWS, Lundstrom has responded with optimism and dedication to his community. “He looks at PWS as motivation rather than a disability,” says his mother, Jennifer Lundstrom. “He focuses on helping others instead of the symptoms.” Lundstrom volunteers a couple of hours a week at First United Presbyterian Church’s soup kitchen, where parishioners and visitors look forward to seeing his smiling face. He has also regularly devoted his time to development of the Transitions Career Fair put on by Northern Transitions, Inc., a nonprofit that specializes in barriers to employment. Recently, Lundstrom raised more than \$300 to help U.P. citizens heat their homes through Chippewa County’s “Walk for Warmth.”

#### **Adult: Diana Anderson of Little Lake**

The Adult Category honors volunteers between the ages of 21 and 54. Diana Anderson has served more than 5,000 hours in her 21 years with Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes in the Gwinn-Sawyer area. She completed the Girl Scouts’ 16-hour trainer’s course in 2004 and has since provided training to more than 150 volunteers. She has served an astounding eight terms on the Gwinn Area Girl Scouts Council, giving more than 100 hours of leadership to the group. Anderson has been the Summer Fun Days director at Camp Pow Low in Gwinn for eight years, and her own family has taken on the task of spring cleaning and winterizing the camp each year.

#### **Senior: Phillip Kolehmainen of White Pine**

The Senior Category recognizes an outstanding volunteer aged 55 or older. As chair of *Michigan Works!* for the counties of Ontonagon, Gogebic, Iron, Baraga and Keweenaw, Kolehmainen assists in skills training, financial literacy workshops and other employment programs. As chair of the Department of Health Services Board in Ontonagon, he oversees



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the administration of welfare programs, protective services and community action programs. Kolehmainen also serves on the U.P. Association of Rural Health Board. Formerly, Kolehmainen served 20 years as vice president of the Ontonagon County Economic Development Corporation, and on the U.P. Emergency Service Board in Marquette for more than 20 years. Kolehmainen was instrumental in starting the Habitat for Humanity affiliate in Ontonagon, and was once director of five affiliates in the Western U.P.

### **Business Community Leader: The Windows Store/ABC Seamless of Marquette**

This award honors for-profit businesses that demonstrate excellent corporate citizenship by giving back to their community through volunteer programs, monetary contributions, in-kind gifts and employee-driven volunteer service. The Window Store/ABC Seamless has contributed monetary and in-kind donations to the U.P. Children's Museum, Marquette County United Way, Beacon House, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Marquette and Alger Counties, and several local service clubs. Employees participate in various service initiatives every year, including the TV-6 Canathon, U.S. Postal Service Stamp Out Hunger food drive, and International Food Fest. For the past 10 years, The Window Store staff has participated in three large scale fundraisers for BBBS, including Bowl for Kids' Sake.

### **Volunteer Program: Zonta of Marquette**

This award acknowledges the importance of clubs or organizations in driving volunteer activity. Zonta of Marquette Area is a part of Zonta International, a club composed of professional women whose mission is to advance the status of women through service and advocacy. Zonta participates in a spring clean-up of Picnic Rocks every year and regularly sponsors bowling activities and outdoor meetings as mentor opportunities with local youth. Last year, Zonta presented scholarships to eight organizations and three individuals in Marquette County. Zonta also sponsors Z-Clubs, service clubs which encourage professionalism and civic engagement among students, at Negaunee High School, Marquette Senior High School and Northern Michigan University.

### **Volunteer Connect: Marquette County Habitat for Humanity**

The Volunteer Connect award recognizes an organization that has successfully used and promoted UPvolunteer.org, an online service connecting volunteers with organizations that need them. Marquette County Habitat for Humanity, an ecumenical nonprofit housing organization, has built or rehabilitated more than 70 houses since its foundation in 1992. To date, Habitat has connected with more than 47 volunteers through UPvolunteer.org referrals and an additional 178 volunteers through the U.P. Volunteer Network's participation in "Give a Day, Get a Disney Day." Habitat has also partnered with other nonprofits across Marquette County to extend their services, including their work this year with Child and Family Services of the U.P.

For more information about the UPVN visit [UPvolunteer.org](http://UPvolunteer.org), or call 1-800-Volunteer.

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