

# Free medical clinic volunteers recognized for making a difference

BY ILENE OLSON  
Tribune News Editor

Since its inception nearly three years ago, the success of the Heart Mountain Volunteer Medical Clinic in Powell can be attributed largely to its volunteers.

To recognize their valuable contributions, clinic organizers and staff regularly present Starfish Awards to outstanding volunteers. Every three months, three volunteers are presented with the award, which celebrates "The Difference of One."

The Starfish Award got its name from a story about a young man who was throwing starfish on a sunny beach back into the ocean to prevent them from drying out and dying.

A man walked by and told him starfish were lying on the beach for miles and miles; he couldn't possibly make a difference.

As the young man threw the next starfish into the water, he replied, "It made a difference for that one."

Volunteers who have received the clinic's Starfish Award to date, and the reasons stated in their awards, are listed below:

**Cecil Baldes**, who has helped with various fundraisers, sometimes purchasing an item in an

auction, then donating it back to the auction. "Cecil has been extremely generous with both his time and his monetary donations. On several occasions, he has made tamales and salsa to sell ... then donated all the proceeds to HMVMC."

**Debbie Hamilton**, who first envisioned community volunteer recognition awards. "Debbie was the living concept — making a difference in the lives of her young moms and babies, her coworkers, her friends... Debbie personifies the Starfish Award ... She does such a grand job of fundraising ... Her 'anything is possible' attitude is amazing."

**Rod Barton**, former executive director of Powell Valley Healthcare, who offered "his support from the very beginning and his belief in the concept of providing health care for our neighbors in need (as well as) his keen sense of ethics and his honest appraisal of what the hospital could and could not do... So many times, issues have arisen, and we have looked to Rod for answers."

**Karen Burke**, an "absolutely outstanding pharmacist" who, "in addition to her professional

abilities ... is very positive, always smiling and a joyful inspiration to the entire clinic."

**Jim Cannon**, public relations spokesman for Powell Valley Healthcare, who has been involved with the clinic since it began. He serves on the advisory board and is willing to help in any way, often by helping meet pressing needs. His response to requests always is pleasant, with a smile and, "Sure."

**Sharon Christensen**, then executive assistant to Barton, and now to current director Paul Cardwell, has volunteered with Heart Mountain Volunteer Clinic since its beginning to transcribe the board's minutes. "She has been dependable and conscientious ... Her dedication to HMVMC has always been above and beyond."

**Shirley Colyer**, who "has been a dedicated supporter of HMVMC since the beginning" by setting up a goodie table and by providing treats on clinic nights and during Powell Valley Healthcare employees' health fairs.

**Kelli Ennist**, who works in the Powell Valley Healthcare lab. "She has gone to great lengths

and spent a lot of energy trying to juggle her other job responsibilities and provide the best possible service and turn-around time to the HMVMC providers and patients."

**Dorothy Gibson**, who has been involved with the clinic since its beginning. "From the inception of HMVMC, Dorothy's fingerprints have been all over it," the award said. "Whether it is working as a greeter, filing, running errands, cleaning the kitchen, watering the plants or serving any needs the clinic has ... she is there helping."

**Dr. Lisa Gwin**, "an outstanding supporter of HMVMC. She is generous, not only financially, but with her volunteering. (She is) very meticulous with her patients as well as caring... She is always a joy to work with."

**Dr. Lyle Haberland**, who "volunteers here so much. He has such a sense of humor. We all like him a lot. His presence is always known by his singing his little jingle, 'Do de doop de doop.'"

**Deb Kleinfeldt**, nurse and Powell Hospital District board member. "Deb has been a joy to work with," her award said. "Deb has been untiring in her assistance and never negative or critical, but helpful and an excellent team player."

**Jane Miller**, who "always is in such a good mood. She is funny and always boosts everybody up."

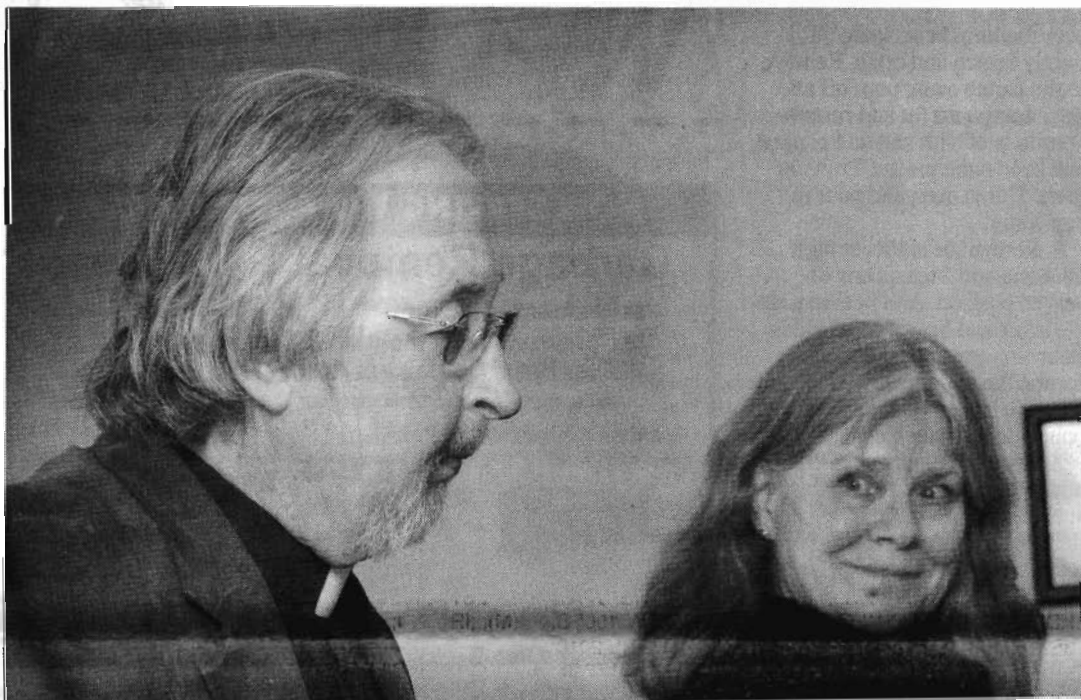
**Sally Montoya**, who received the award for her work with the Christmas Basket Program and community giveaway, "Sally's Boutique," and for her other year-round community work for the past 61 years.

"She is a shining example of someone who makes a difference," the award said. "She loves to see the smiles on kids' faces when she hands them a stuffed animal, puzzle or toy, but the smile on her face is just as big as the child's."

**Dr. Ron Orbin**, "a volunteer physician who not only works frequently on a scheduled basis, but also has filled in at the last minute on many occasions. He has a great attitude and is a joy to work with in the clinic... He has, as a volunteer, given above and beyond."

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**Bryn Parker**, a medical student who worked and observed at Powell Valley Healthcare for several months in 2010. "During this time, she has been a dedicated volunteer every Tuesday evening. She bounds into the clinic on Tuesday, and her enthusiasm has been contagious with everyone who comes in contact with her. She has certainly taken the hearts of us all."

**Carol Watne**, who "has worked tirelessly and enthusiastically with the patients and pharmacists... (and) is very instrumental in keeping medication costs well below the average for other clinics."

**Erica Barrows-Nees**, "a prime example of the inherent goodness in so many of our young medical students... Her presence and knowledge has been an asset to the free clinic."

Clinic volunteers also were recognized with a cake and a short ceremony during volunteer week this spring, and at a volunteer picnic earlier this month.



**Pastor Bill Spencer of Hope Lutheran Church praises volunteer efforts at the Heart Mountain Volunteer Medical Clinic during a volunteer recognition celebration earlier this year. Looking on is nurse Sadie Hockenull, patient care coordinator for the free clinic.** Tribune photo by Ilene Olson