

# NEWS RELEASE

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## CHAMBER ANNOUNCES AWARD WINNERS

Woodland Park, Colorado..... The Greater Woodland Park Chamber of Commerce announced today the winners of the following awards: Project of the Year; Volunteer of the Year; Non Profit of the Year; Employee of the Year, Business of the Year and Wagon Boss. These awards will be presented at the Chamber's Annual Dinner "Making Business Magic" on Friday, March 14, 2014 at Cheyenne Mountain Resort. Tickets are available by contacting the Chamber office at 719-687-9885.

"Over my nine years serving as Chamber President, there has never been the extraordinary amount of nominations submitted for these awards." said Debbie Miller. "There were incredibly qualified nominations which made the task of selecting a winner arduous for our judges."

Gold Hill Theatres captured the Project of the Year for 2013. Bill Page and Ed Shirk, co-owners of the theatres made a significant investment in remodeling and enhancing the venue for the pleasure of the Woodland Park and Teller County residents. The theatres offer 4 screens of digital audio and projection calibrated for the customers' enjoyment. New seating with retractable arm rests, handicap accessible seating and restrooms offer a venue welcome to everyone. A new wine and beer bar enhances the already popular snack bar choices. The facility was built to be a multi-use venue that can host business meetings as well as showing state of the art new movie releases every day. "What a tremendous asset to our community and families." said Dale Schnitker of Vectra Bank. "This is a venue where our kids and families can enjoy remarkable entertainment here in Woodland Park."

The 2013 Volunteer of the Year works a full time job, but still manages to recruit, train, write grants and serve in mission support for the Teller County Search and Rescue

(TCSAR) unit. Janet Bennett nominated the TCSAR unit to be a member of the 2013 Indy Give Campaign operated through the Colorado Springs Independent and the Pikes Peak Community Foundation. Through Janet's tireless efforts working the campaign, TCSAR raised almost \$10,000 in 2013. These monies will assist the efforts of the organization in acquisition of land and a building for them. Over the past seven years Janet has served on the Membership and Fundraising committee where dollars raised have helped secure radios, computers and an incident command trailer. Currently, Janet serves in the role of secretary to the TCSAR group. Janet is trained at the level of mission support and SarTech II where she is available to set up the staging area working communications and tracking communications between the mission teams and the Sheriff's department. "Janet's desire to grow and enhance the operation of the TCSAR unit epitomizes what we seek in a volunteer candidate." said Jed Bowman, Chairman of the Chamber Board.

Organized in 1992, Community Partnership Family Resource Center (CPFRC) has continually provided essential human services to the residents of Teller County. In 2013, they reached 1,396 people with parenting education, school readiness play groups, exercise, cooking, nutrition and chronic disease management classes. Other projects included support for health insurance coverage, adult education, GED test prep and emergency utilities assistance. 69 families received \$24,167 in relief through their emergency utility payments. The Center is focused on results. Their parenting classes in child abuse prevention education program saw an 81% increase in positive parenting behaviors and 93% of the families receiving home visits made improvements toward reaching their goals. Supported by foundations, state government, local businesses and individuals, the Center's highly educated professional staff seeks collaborations with the Aspen Mine Center, Teller County Public Health and Build-A-Generation for assistance to their clients. A new partnership with Teller County Department of Social Services provides full support to families at high risk of child abuse. "While we go about our daily lives, the staff and board of this Center provides a venue to meet the needs of many of our friends and neighbors." said Luke Conrad, past Chamber Board Chair. "How fortunate we are to have an organization that continues to be a responsive leader in addressing these needs."

“Not since the late ‘90’s have we had a tie in one of our categories.” declared Debbie Miller, President of the Chamber. “This year the judges selected two out of the multiple nominees submitted to receive this prestigious award.” One of the two Employees of the Year is Pat Hill. Pat has been an integral part of the Pikes Peak Courier for over 20 years. Pat’s work ethic is exemplary. First to arrive in the morning and last to leave at night, Pat has a pure love of the paper and the stories she writes. She knows the history of our community and is touched by the events and issues facing the residents of the region. As a seasoned reporter, Pat has a keen sense of important topics which impact our region. Following those leads, Pat writes with compassion and unbiased emotion. She gives the reader a fact filled story written professionally and fairly presented. Over the years, Pat has received numerous honors and accolades for her fairness in reporting. In 2013, she received the Best Continued Coverage award for her Green Mountain Falls reporting. One trait best known to other Courier employees is Pat’s fantastic and quick humor. Deadlines in the newspaper industry is a way of life that Pat has embraced with wit and one liner’s that continue to add levity to what might be viewed to others as stressful time. “Pat’s dedication to fairness, yet presenting all sides to a story is what makes her an asset to our community.” said Brian Fleeer, Executive Director of the Office of Economic and Downtown Development.

The other Employee of the Year has been serving the citizens of Woodland Park for 29 years. Serving in variety of positions with the City of Woodland Park, Sally Riley has served as the Planning Director leading and supervising the City Planner, Code Enforcement Officer and the administrative personnel in the Planning Department for the past six and one half years. All development activity within the city limits begins and ends in the Planning Department. In 2013, high profile projects like Charis Bible College, Do-It-Best Hardware, Trail Ridge Apartments and Tractor Supply Company came through the Planning Department. These projects are just a few of the 295 projects and 142 Code Enforcement issues, Sally administered in her position as Director. In addition, 2013 brought on a challenge for the City to create their own in house Building Department. Highly motivated, dependable and faced with a 120 day deadline, Sally took on this initiative and worked diligently to create a public private partnership with the Regional Building Department. Immersing herself in research, Sally reached out to local

customers of the building department to help her ascertain the ultimate goal to provide an excellent service to those who would be potential customers. She kept her focus on the ultimate goal and completed the task of creating the Building Department in the timeframe required. “Sally’s work ethic is exemplary. She sees all tasks completed to an exceptional standard.” declared City Manager David Buttery. “Sally is a true professional and makes Woodland Park a better place to live, work and play.”

The Chamber seeks to honor a member business - small or large - that can proclaim Excellence in Business. The judges seek to determine the significant impact a business has through customer service, community involvement as well as sustainability in tough economic times. Team Telecycle, owned and operated by Paul Magnuson embodies all the criteria named above. For over 28 years, Team Telecycle has focused on great customer service, fairly priced products, outstanding repair and service department as well as a genuine desire to enhance the business community of Woodland Park. Team Telecycle is a huge attraction for cyclists, especially mountain bikers. As an ambassador for cycling, Paul offers information on different rides in the area, including videos and free maps. Understanding the importance of introducing cycling to the youth of our region, Paul is very involved in the Faith Lutheran’s youth group offering everything from Water World trips to those in confirmation classes to working with the bike teams of the middle and high schools in Woodland Park. Shawn Keehn, realtor with Coldwell Banker says, “I remember going in to Team Telecycle when I was ten years old to see the cool bikes. Now many years later, I still get just as excited to see the bikes and talk shop with Paul.” Paul is committed to his customers’ satisfaction by meeting their needs through tuning up their bikes at an affordable cost or searching for reasonably priced replacement parts. His passion shines through to every customer. “When a question arises in our Visitor Center about biking, we send our patrons to visit with Paul at Team Telecycle.” noted Sue Griswold, Chamber Membership Director. “We know Paul’s passion about biking will inspire that customer to spend time visiting our trails, shopping our stores and dining in our restaurants.”

A Wagon Boss should be a person of high integrity, great ethical standards, and a distinguished leader who is actively involved in his/her community. Neil Levy exemplifies all of these traits and more. The Chamber is pleased to announce Neil Levy

as the winner of the Wagon Boss award. Neil is a model for others to emulate in business, leadership, volunteerism and family dedication. Admiration among his business peers is without question. Neil's excellent business integrity, commitment to his staff and customers has long withstood the test of endurance. The Swiss Chalet is recognized throughout the region as one of the top restaurants where you can hold a working business luncheon or a romantic evening for two. Examples of Neil's commitment to the economic health of his business is witnessed by his one on one customer interaction, exceptional product and return of years long loyal patrons. His astute business ethics is but one side to Neil. Serving as a leader for the youth of our community is another side to Neil's vast legacy. Whether he is hosting a Foundation dinner at his restaurant that raises over \$5,000 annually to support needed school projects or his work with the LeaderCast program to enhance Leadership in our community to include a large portion of our youth community, Neil has a passion for the kids in our area. A few examples of his volunteer commitment to youth include coaching baseball for the City youth program, the American Legion baseball program and coaching golf for the Woodland Park High School team. Other entities gaining his expertise is the American Cancer Society, Teller County Regional Animal Shelter and the RE-2 School Foundation. As a member of the Woodland Park School District RE-2 Community Task Force he provided insight to enhance and promote the accomplishments of the District. Neil's kind, compassionate, and giving attributes have served as an excellent example for his three sons Max, Sam and Lou. Along with his wife Paula, Neil has walked the walk of getting involved and giving back to your community. These character attributes and enviable track record make Neil an ideal role model for others to replicate. Tanner Coy states, "Neil's love for family, friends and community is more than undeniable, it's infectious." "He has been the sounding board and messenger for our community concerning all manner of business and community issues." declared Rick Chulick, 2012 Wagon Boss. Charlie Oaks, 2009 Wagon Boss says, "It is my opinion that he has been a very special gift to our community."

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