

**For Immediate Release**  
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## **AVA Honors Leaders in Volunteer Management**

(Richmond, Va.)—The international Association for Volunteer Administration announced the recipients of awards for outstanding leadership and professionalism in volunteer resources management at its International Conference on Volunteer Administration, held Oct. 18-21 in Phoenix, Ariz., United States.

Joan Brown, coordinator of the Civic Center Volunteers Program in Marin County, Calif., United States was named Volunteer Administrator of the Year for demonstrating excellence in the field of volunteer administration. "No other volunteer administrator has left such a strong legacy on the local, regional and national levels," said Dawn Matheny of the County of Sonoma Volunteer Programs in Santa Rosa, Calif., United States, who nominated Brown. "Joan's enthusiasm, commitment to the field, high energy, pioneering vision and her innovative entrepreneurial approach represent the best of what volunteer administration can be."

Brown launched the volunteer program 21 years ago in response to cuts in funding for county services. What began as a pilot program has now become a model for government volunteer programs across the United States. Volunteers are recruited for specific functions in county government, matching individuals' skills with service needs, such as a docent program, marine patrol, search and rescue team, literacy program and a fire lookout program. The program won the 2000 United States' National Association of Counties' Acts of Caring Award.

Brown was also active in organizing the Bay Area Volunteer Managers in Government, now titled Managers of Volunteers in Government and the National Association of Volunteer Programs in Local Government in the United States.

Kathleen "Kathy" McCleskey, owner of KM Consulting and Training Connection in Austin, Texas., United States, received the Harriet Naylor Distinguished Member Service Award for her service to AVA. McCleskey has dedicated her career to the education of professionals working with volunteers. As the spouse of a military officer, she has had opportunities to share her perspectives and expertise throughout the world and received the Emma Baird Award, the U.S. Army's highest award for volunteer service.

An AVA member since 1984, McCleskey "has been involved in making the association a better organization for its membership," said her nominator, Sarah Kegerreis, tourism director for the Terrell Chamber of Commerce Convention and Visitors Bureau in Terrell, Texas., United States. McCleskey served as an AVA regional chairperson from 1991 to 1992 and was Vice President of Regional Affairs on the AVA Board of Directors from 1992 to 1995.

McCleskey further assisted AVA by developing a manual to help AVA's conference planning committees. In 1998 she headed the Program Division of the ICVA Planning Committee, overseeing keynote speakers, workshops and the exhibit area. "Kathy has served AVA well with her ability to bring people together for a common cause. Her optimism, sense of humor and 'never give up' attitude have inspired many people over the years," said Kegerreis.

AVA also presented Organizational Awards to Abington Savings Bank in Abington, Mass., United States and The Terry K. Watanabe Volunteer Center of Gay Men's Health Crisis in New York City, N.Y., United States.

Since 1995 under the leadership of President James McDonough, Abington Savings Bank employees have touched the lives of hundreds of special needs children. Bank employees have raised money and planned activities to support students at two non-profit schools, Cardinal Cushing School and Training Center and Braintree St. Coletta Day School. Projects have included hosting annual holiday and seasonal activities for the students and raising money to send graduates and chaperones to Disney World. To raise money for these activities, employees have held fundraisers as well as making contributions through voluntary payroll deductions.

"Unlike many corporate benefactors, the employees of Abington Savings Bank have the desire to be involved in our students' lives," said St. Coletta's President/CEO Paul Hudson and Director of Volunteer Services Margaret Lelakes who nominated the bank. "Throughout the year employees and their families volunteer their time . . . to plan games, arts and crafts and prepare food for the special events. The bond between the two organizations grows stronger every year."

The Terry K. Watanabe Volunteer Center of Gay Men's Health Crisis is the oldest and largest AIDS service organization in the world. Since 1981 over 8,000 program volunteers and 45,000 special events volunteers have provided millions of hours of service in the struggle against HIV/AIDS. The center's signature programs, the Buddy Program and Hotline, have become models for care and counseling, replicated throughout the world.

Recognized around the world as a leader in volunteer management, the center has developed an extensive system of orientation, training and supervision to retain and revitalize its volunteer workforce. Special projects include an annual citywide skills-building conference for those who work in the HIV/AIDS volunteer community and seasonal partnerships with local merchants to create opportunities for HIV/AIDS awareness and education.

A student leadership development program will be initiated next year to provide more education on all facets of the AIDS epidemic. "We hope to better prepare young leaders to return to their communities with valuable experiences, practical skills and new relationships to address the challenges presented by AIDS in the third millennium," said Derreth Duncan, the center's volunteer coordinator who nominated this organization.

AVA is an international membership organization with over 2,000 members who share a commitment to effective, professional leadership of volunteer efforts. Founded in 1960, AVA has shaped a profession that lacked formal structure and communication as well as a common identity.

AVA publishes a quarterly journal, advocates on issues relating to the management of volunteer resources, offers a competency-based credentialing program, and holds an annual international conference. The association also collects data on member demographics and educational needs, endorses applicable college and university level courses and recognizes outstanding individuals and organizations for their contributions to the profession of volunteer administration.

For more information about AVA's services and programs, call 804-346-2266, write to P.O. Box 32092, Richmond, VA 23294 USA or by e-mail to [avaintl@mindspring.com](mailto:avaintl@mindspring.com) or visit AVA's web site at [www.avaintl.org](http://www.avaintl.org).



# **2000 AWARDS NOMINATION FORMS**

**The AVA Awards Committee is proud to present  
the nomination information for 2000.**

**On the following pages you will find criteria concerning the three different awards  
as well as general information that is required of all nominations.**

**Deadline: June 15, 2000**

**Return to: Association for Volunteer Administration  
P. O. Box 32092  
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